Comforted of God.

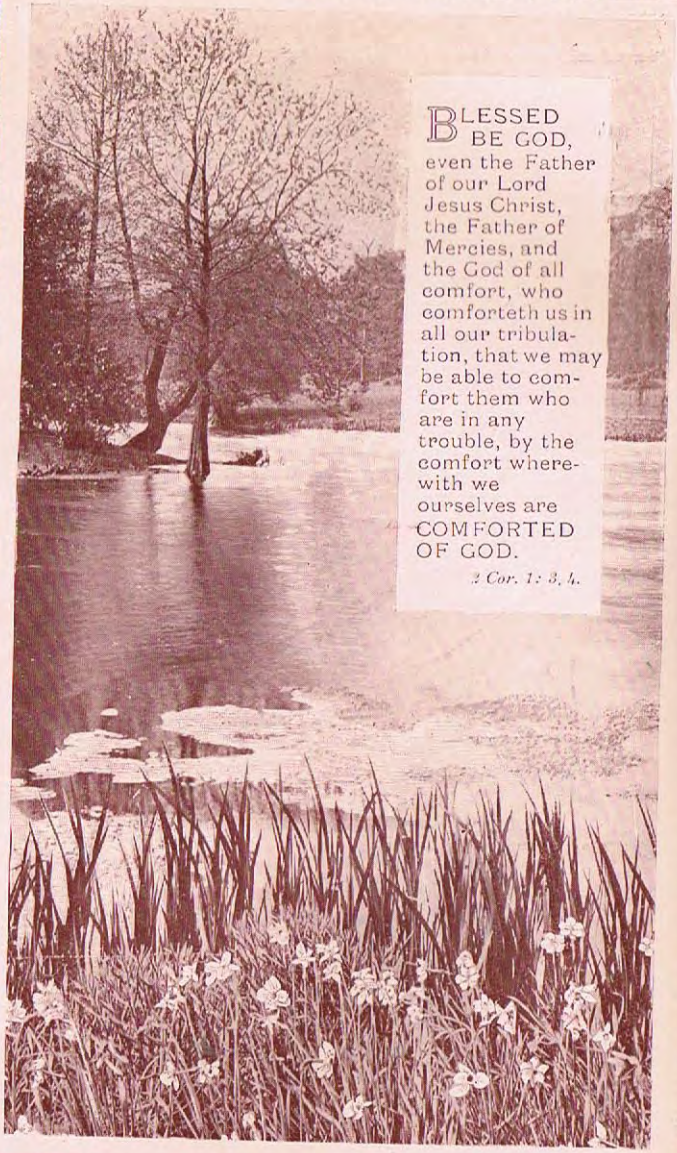
To Dear Sr. Amanda Bruschner

I. Corinthians 15: 57.

Bethel 1924.

Bro. Ch. Nagle

Comforted of God.



BLESSED BE GOD, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are COMFORTED OF GOD.

2 Cor. 1: 3, 4.

"Consider the Lilies."

He cares for thee!

1 Peter v. 7. *Matt. vi. 28, 29.*

How good and kind our Father's care!
The words like music in the air
Come answering to our whispered prayer,
He cares for thee.

The thought great comfort with it brings,
Our cares are all such little things
When to this truth a glad faith clings,
He cares for thee.

The pure white lilies know no care,
And yet they grow so grand and fair,
Shedding sweet fragrance here and there
God cares for these.

Great is God's care for His dear child,
Guarding from foe and danger wild
With love so strong and undefiled,
He cares for thee.

And that sweet love will on thee shine
Making His home for ever thine;
O! the rich depths of Love Divine
He shares with thee.

Tune: "Ombersley" (Bristol).

The Changed Cross

It was a time of sadness—and my heart,
Although it knew and loved the better part,
Felt wearied with the conflict and the strife,
And all the needful discipline of life.

And while I thought on these—as given to me,
My trial-tests of faith and love to be,
It seemed as if I never could be sure
That faithful to the end I should endure.

And thus, no longer trusting to His might
Who says "We walk by faith and not by sight."
Doubting—and almost yielding to despair,
The thought arose, *My cross I cannot bear!*

Far heavier its weight must surely be
Than those of others which I daily see;
Oh, if I might another burden choose,
Methinks I should not fear my crown to lose

A solemn silence reigned on all around,
E'en nature's voices uttered not a sound;
The evening shadows seemed of peace to tell,
And sleep upon my weary spirit fell.

A moment's pause—and then a heavenly light
Beamed full upon my wondering, raptured sight;
Angels on silvery wings seemed everywhere,
And angels' music thrilled the balmy air.

Then One more fair than all the rest to see,
One to whom all the others bowed the knee,
Came gently to me as I trembling lay,
And, "Follow me," He said, "I am the Way."

Then speaking thus, He led me far above,
And there, beneath a canopy of love,
Crosses of divers shape and size were seen,
Larger and smaller than mine own had been.

And one there was most beauteous to behold—
A little one, with jewels set in gold;
Ah, this, methought, I can with comfort wear,
For it will be an easy one to bear.

And so the little cross I quickly took;
But all at once my frame beneath it shook—
The sparkling jewels, fair were they to *see*,
But far too heavy was their *weight* for me.

This may not be, I cried, and looked again
To see if any there could ease my pain.
But one by one I passed them slowly by,
Till on a lovely one I cast my eye.

Fair flowers around its sculptured form entwined,
And grace and beauty seemed in it combined;
Wondering I gazed—and still I wondered more
To think so many should have passed it o'er.

But oh, that form so beautiful to see,
Soon made its hidden sorrows known to me;—
Thorns lay beneath those flowers and colours fair;
Sorrowing I said, This cross I may not bear.

And so it was with each and all around,
Not one to suit my *need* could there be found;
Weeping, I laid each heavy burden down,
As my Guide gently said, "No cross—no crown."

At length to Him I raised my saddened heart;
He knew its sorrows, bid its doubts depart,—
"Be not afraid," He said, "but trust in me,
My perfect love shall now be shown to thee."

And then, with lightened eyes and willing feet,
Again I turned my earthly cross to meet,
With forward footsteps, turning not aside,
For fear some hidden evil might betide.

And there, in the prepared, appointed way,
Listening to hear, and ready to obey,
A cross I quickly found of plainest form,
With only words of love inscribed thereon.

With thankfulness I raised it from the rest,
And joyfully acknowledged it the best;
The *only* one of all the many there,
That I could feel was *good* for me to bear.

And while I thus my chosen one confessed,
I saw a heavenly brightness on it rest,
And as I bent my burden to sustain,
I recognised my own old cross again!

But oh, how different did it seem to be,
Now I had learned its preciousness to see!
No longer could I unbelieving say,
Perhaps another is a better way.

Ah, no! henceforth my one desire shall be,
That He who knows me best should choose for me.
And so, whate'er His love sees good to send,
I'll trust is best—because He knows the end.

Lord Jesus, make thyself to me
A living bright reality!
More present to Faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen,
More dear, more intimately nigh,
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

"Yet will I not forget Thee"

Isa. 49 : 15-16. *Psalm* 137 : 5-6.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" My cherished one, Mine own,
I will not leave thee comfortless, life's path to tread alone,
'Tis better that those outstretched hands, those clinging hands of thine
Be loosed, beloved, from every clasp of other hands but mine.
Though earthly loves and earthly hopes afar from thee be set,
Remember still, My chosen one, thee will I not forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" though thou hast oft forgot,
And turned unheeding from My voice, My words obeying not :
Yet with Mine own, my dying soul, I bore away thy past ;
I took thy sin upon my heart, which broke for thee at last.
But on this heart for ever, let thou thy love be set,
Thy name engraven on these hands, thee will I not forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" My joy! My undefiled!
Made perfect thro' My loveliness wrapt round a wandering child.
I will forget thy wanderings, I will forget thy sin ;
And cast them all behind My back, as though they ne'er had been.
But thee My sealed, My chosen, on whom My love is set
I've love alone toward thee—how can I then forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" in mine own garden bowers,
I water every moment the humblest fragrant flowers.
For mine own Royal Diadem, for My celestial crown.
There waiteth still some precious gems of fair and bright renown.
And when I wreathe My flowers, and when My gems are set
In heaven's glory on My brow, "thee will I not forget."

O Love that will not let me go!

O LOVE that will not let me go—I rest my weary soul on Thee :
I give Thee back the life I owe that in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O LIGHT that followest all my way—I yield my flickering torch to Thee ;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O JOY that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O CROSS that liftest up my head I would not ask to fly from thee;
E'en death's cold wave I need not dread, for in thy home where glories spread
My life shall endless be.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business

WHEN Jesus was twelve years old, his parents went to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And as they returned the child tarried behind: and Joseph and his mother knew it not, supposing him to have been in the company. After a day's journey they sought him, and when they found him not they turned back again to Jerusalem.

And it came to pass, that, after three days they found him in the midst of the religious rulers, both hearing them and asking them questions, while all who heard him were astonished at his intelligence.

And when his parents saw him they were amazed and his mother said "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold we have sought Thee in anguish of spirit." "Why is it that you have been searching for me?" he replied, "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." But they understood him not, but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

They returned to Nazareth and he was subject unto them and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52.

"The child Samuel answered "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."
I Sam. 3.

Hushed was the Evening Hymn.

HUSHED was the evening hymn, the temple courts were dark;
The lamp was burning dim before the sacred ark:
When suddenly a voice Divine, rang through the silence of the shrine.

OH give me Samuel's ear—the open ear O Lord;
Alive and quick to hear each whisper of thy word;
Like him to answer at thy call, and to obey Thee first of all.

OH give me Samuel's heart!—a lonely heart that waits
When in Thy house Thou art; or watches at Thy gates
By day and night—a heart that still moves at the breathing of Thy will.

OH give me Samuel's mind! a sweet, unmurmering faith,
Obedient and resigned to Thee in life and death:
That I may read, with childlike eyes, truths that are hidden from the wise.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.

God moves in a mysterious way

GOD moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

DEEP in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

YE fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

JUDGE not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace:
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face.

HIS purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

BLIND unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

In a Mysterious Way.

"NO," said the lawyer, "I shan't press your claim against that man; you can get someone else to take the case, or you can withdraw it, just as you please. There would probably be some money in it, but it would, as you know, come from the sale of the little house the man occupies and calls 'home'; but I don't want to meddle with the matter, anyhow."

"I suppose likely the old fellow begged to be let off?"

"Well—yes, he did."

"And you?"

"I didn't speak a word to him."

"Oh, he did all the talking, did he? What did you do?"

"I believe I shed a few tears; he didn't speak a word to me."

"Well, may I respectfully inquire whom he did address in your hearing?"

"Almighty God. But, not for my benefit in the least. You see"—the lawyer crossed his right foot over his left knee, and began stroking his lower leg up and down, as if to help state his case concisely—"you see, I found the little house easily enough, and knocked on the outer door which stood ajar, but nobody heard me; so I stepped into the little hall, and saw through the crack of another door just as cosy a sitting room as there ever was.

"There, on a bed, with her silver head way up high on the pillows, was an old lady. I was on the point of knocking, when she said, as clearly as could be, 'Come, father, now begin; I'm all ready'—and down on his knees by her side went an old white-haired man, still older than his wife, I should judge; and I couldn't have knocked then. He began to pray; first he reminded God they were still his submissive children, mother and he, and no matter what He saw fit to bring upon them, they should'nt rebel at His will; of course 'twas going to be very hard for them to go out homeless in their old age, specially with poor mother, so sick and helpless, but still they'd seen sadder things than ever that would be. He reminded God, in the next place how different it might have been if only one of their boys had been spared them; then his voice kind of broke, and a thin white hand stole from under the coverlet and moved softly over his snowy hair; then he went on to repeat that nothing could be so sharp again as the parting with those three sons

—unless mother and he should be separated. But at last he fell to comforting himself with the fact that the dear Lord knew it was through no fault of his own that mother and he were threatened with the loss of their dear little home, which meant beggary, in a place they prayed to be delivered from entering, if it could be consistent with God's will; and then he fell to quoting a multitude of promises concerning the safety of those who put their trust in the Lord. Yes, I should say he begged hard; in fact, it was the most thrilling plea to which I ever listened; and at last he prayed for God's blessing on those who were about to demand justice." The lawyer stroked his lower limb in silence for a moment or two, then he continued, more slowly than ever: "And—I—believe—I'd rather go to the poorhouse myself, to-night, than to stain my heart and hands with the blood of such a prosecution as that."

"You are afraid to defeat the old man's prayer?" queried the client.

"Bless your soul, man, you couldn't defeat it!" He left it all subject to the will of God; but he left no doubt as to his wishes in the matter; claimed that we were told to make known our desires unto God, but of all the pleading I ever heard, that beat all. You see, I was taught that kind of thing in my childhood; and, why I was sent to hear that prayer, I'm sure I don't know; but I hand the case over."

"I wish," said the client, twisting uneasily, "you hadn't told me about the old fellow's prayer, because I want the money the place would bring; but I was taught the Bible when I was a youngster, and I'd hate to run counter to such an harangue as that you tell me about. I wish you hadn't heard a word of it; and another time I wouldn't listen to petitions not intended for my ears."

The lawyer smiled.

"My dear fellow," he said, "you're wrong again; it was intended for my ears, and yours, too, and God Almighty intended it. My old mother used to sing about God's moving in a mysterious way, I remember."

"Well, my mother used to sing about it too," said the claimant, as he twisted his claim-papers in his fingers. "You can call in the morning, if you like, and tell 'mother and him' the claim has been met."

"In a mysterious way," added the lawyer, smiling.

"She hath done what she could"

Mark 14: 8, 9.

IT IS NOT OUR PRIVILEGE to come into personal contact with our dear Redeemer, but it is our privilege to anoint the Lord's "brethren" with the sweet perfume of love, sympathy, joy and peace, and the more costly this may be as respects our self-denials, the more precious it will be in the estimation of our Elder Brother, who declared that in proportion as we do or do not unto His brethren, we do or do not unto Him. Our alabaster boxes are our hearts, which should be full of the richest and choicest perfumes of good wishes, kindness and love toward all, but especially toward the Christ—toward the Head, our Lord Jesus, and toward all the members of His body, the Church; and especially on our part toward the feet members who are now with us, and on whom we now have the privilege of pouring out the sweet odours of love and devotion in the name of the Lord, because we are His.

Love's Victory.

IT takes great love within the loyal heart
To live beyond the others and apart;
A love that is not shallow, is not small,
Is not for one or two, but is for all.
Love that can wound love, for its highest need;
Love that can leave love, though a heart may plead.
Love that can choose the right and leave the wrong;
And breathe in hope and joy the victor's song;
A love that will not waver, that will find
Just what it means to suffer and be kind.

IT takes great love to conquer self and pride,
And swim against the swift and evil tide;
A love that wends its course to that grand height
Where dwells our God, enthroned in wondrous light;
Like that great love our Lord did sweet express,
So strong in faith and patient tenderness.
Yea, like the glowing sun, this Love must live,
Moved by one burning deathless force—to give.
Love, faith and courage; courage, faith and love,
Of such are God's victors crowned from above.

"Neither shall they learn war any more." *Isa. 2: 4.*

Thy Kingdom Come!

Thy Kingdom come! the cry gone forth, in every land, east, west, south, north.
From age to age, two thousand years, the cry gone forth with pleading tears.

Thy Kingdom come! what meaneth this? doth it spell woe or happy bliss,
Dread and pain, and depth of sorrow, or doth it tend a glad to-morrow?

Thy Kingdom come! the pomp of earth have counted little on Thy worth!
And still they laugh with vain derision, and turn their eyes from such a vision.

Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done! the time speeds on as with the sun.
This means that earth—so clearly told—a wondrous change will now behold.

And why? Remember how it rang, the message that the angels sang—
"Goodwill to men, and peace on earth," which means to all another birth.

For He must reign who died for all, till friend and foe, and great and small,
Are back again from their death sleep; He gave His life to save His sheep.

No more they'll hear the awful din of selfishness and war and sin:
For rank a d file of every nation will flow to God—a new creation.

The prophecies, to be fulfilled, speak of the land when it is tilled,
Will yield like some transcendent story, delights of unsurpassing glory!

Far, far beyond all human thought, laden with riches and pleasures fraught,
Reserved for those who bow the knee to Him who died on Calvary.

Thy Kingdom come! who will not pray in this dark world of sin and say:—
O may it come O let there be one will alone: He lives for me.

E'en now before the sun shines bright, before the flooding of the light!
There're blessings great and grand and fair, the Truth to know, a life to share.

And best of all that deep'ning love, ten thousand times a mother's love!
Surpassing all the fondest dream that links with us the great Supreme!

Mat. 6: 10.

The Lost Sheep

IN the East the Good Shepherd is known by his faithful watch-care over his sheep, which is exercised at the constant risk of personal danger. Under this figure the great sacrifice of Jesus is seen with illustrious force and beauty. Through the merit of Redemptive Sacrifice "the lost sheep," as represented by "all in Adam" will be raised from the dead and be granted the gracious opportunity of attaining to human perfection, the basic characteristics of which are meekness, docility and obedience to the "Good Shepherd." The result will be eternal life on the perfect earth.

Isa. 53. Luke 2 : 8-14. 2 Cor. 8 : 9. Phil. 2 : 5-11. Isa. 35.

THERE were ninety-and-nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away
Far off from the gates of gold:—
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

LORD Thou hast here Thy ninety-and-nine,
Are they not enough for Thee?
But the Shepherd answered "This sheep is Mine
Which has wandered away from Me."
And although the road was so rough and steep
He went to the desert to save His sheep.

BUT none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through
Ere He found His sheep that was lost:
Out in the desert He heard its cry—
Sick and helpless and ready to die.

AND all through the mountains, thunder riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a cry to the gate of heaven:
"Rejoice! I have found My sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
Rejoice! for the Lord brings back His own.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.

Back to their own Borders.

THE little brook that runs by my door
Is locked in its icy bed.
The little birds that I loved of yore,
Have gone from the branch o'erhead.
The leaves have dropped from the lilac tree,
The grass is under the snow,
And the plaintive note of the chickadee,
Is the only sound I know.

BUT I know the birds will come back to me,
The brook will flow again;
The wee brown buds on the lilac tree
Will burst into leaves; and then
My lawn will come from its hiding place,
The birds will sing and will mate;
And I'll hear of their songs of love and grace
So I'll thankfully, patiently, wait.

THE little ones whom I loved so much,
Were blessed with their baby charms,
Yielding my heart to their loving touch,
Have gone from my mother arms.
It is lonesome and still in the nursery now,
I dread to go by its door:
And sometimes in sorrow my heart will bow
When I handle their toys once more.

BUT, oh, from the hand of the enemy,
When the winter of death is o'er,
My little ones all will come back to me,
And gladden my heart once more.
As the calves in the stall they shall grow up then
For Jehovah hath planned it so,
My heart responds with a glad Amen!
So I'll wait and be patient now.

Jer. 31 : 15-17. Acts 3 : 19-21.

In praise of my Redeemer.

"WHEN first I heard of Jesus so marred upon the tree,
I felt no glad emotion as though He died for me!
I saw no kingly beauty, majestic, grand or brave,
I turned away despising His proffered aid to save.

"BUT when I came to know Him, His precious name grew sweet,
And like the tinted rainbow, love arched the Mercy seat;
And when—O wondrous glory—light shone from His dear face,
All other objects faded before His matchless grace.

"AND when the joyful tidings, how God's Beloved Son
Will raise the dead in Adam, bless each and every one.
What could I do but praise Him, make vault of heaven ring!
And own Him as my choicest—Redeemer, Lord, and King.

"O Rose of rarest odour! O Lily, white and pure!
O Chiefest of ten thousand whose glory must endure!
The more I see Thy beauty, the more I know Thy grace,
The more I long, unhindered, to gaze upon Thy face!"

WE ARE SOWING

WE are sowing, ever sowing,
Something good or something ill,
In the lives of those around us,
We are planting what we will.

NOT a word for God falls fruitless,
Not a thought for Him decays;
Every fragrant precious blossom,
Will be found in future days.

WHEN the very hand that sowed them,
Shall have gone with Him to be;
Still the record of their sowing,
Will be seen eternally.

GRANT then, LORD of all the harvest,
That the seeds we daily sow,
May refresh the hearts of others,
Spreading blessings as they grow.

MAY each thought and word and action,
Bring the fruit of Christian love:
To be found in coming ages,
In thy garner house above.

TREASURED there in thine own keeping,
To thine own eternal praise,
Happy ending to our sowing—
Endless joys of fruitful days.

2 Cor. 9, 7-11. Gal. 6, 7-10. Gal. 5, 22-23.

ALABASTER BOXES

Matthew 26 : 6—13.

DO NOT keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say them before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them when I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

IMMANUEL'S LAND

THE sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks,
The summer morn we've longed for:
The blest sweet morn awakes:—
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring's now at hand,
And God's own glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

BORNE on the tide of evil
Are sorrows, wrong and shame;
Earth's proud ones have rejected
God's Word and precious Name:
Where He has set the noblest,
They've stamped their foulest brand.
But judgment shines like noonday
In fair Immanuel's Land.

DEEP waters over-flowed me,
The thorns around were sharp:
Now these lie all behind me
And praise swells from my harp—
Whence flows the song of ages,
With yon celestial strand,
Where love in fulness dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

SOON shall the streams of glory
Dissolve earth's bitt'rest woes,
Soon shall the desert briar
Be changed to Eden's Rose;
Soon shall the earth in gladness,
Proclaim the Truth now banned,
Oh, hail the glory gleaming
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THERE! there the Rose of Sharon
Unfolds its full heart's bloom,
And fills the air of heaven
With rapturous perfume:
There through eternal ages
The fragrance rare is fanned,
Distilling glory ever
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THE King's transcendent beauty
Unveiled there is seen:
It were a well-spent journey
Though sev'n deaths lay between.
The Lamb with his Beloved
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
In glory which excelleth,
In fair Immanuel's Land.

OF Christ who is the fountain,
The deep sweet well of love:
How oft its joys we've tasted,
More deep we'll drink above:
There to an ocean fulness
His goodness doth expand—
'Tis 'glory unto glory'
In fair Immanuel's Land.

O JOY! what bliss to meet Him,
No longer here to roam,
My Lord says, "Come up higher,
Beloved welcome home!"
The palace in its splendour,
So beautiful and grand!
Ah! glory—glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

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THE LAST SUPPER. *Luke 22: 1-23.*

THE heat of the day is over, the hour is growing late,
And many weary pilgrims press through the city gate,
Eager to find a lodging within its sheltering wall
Ere the rapid sunset vanish and darkness reigns o'er all.
Oh sight to glad the spirit ! Oh rest for weary eyes
To see the lofty temple high o'er the city rise !
In every Jewish household the solemn feast is spread.
The Paschal moon has risen, her silver light is shed
Over the glad Jerusalem, its temple grand and fair ;
The presence of Jehovah seems round them everywhere ;
And the dear Lord is among them, and many heed it not ;
He in a borrowed upper room, unheeded and forgot ;
He with His loved disciples, keepeth the feast with them ;
The Lord of all is dwelling in great Jerusalem.
Let us leave outside the city, in its shadows deep and dim,
To rest awhile with Jesus and keep the feast with Him.

THE artist lifts the curtain, we are with the Master now ;
We see the look of sadness upon His kingly brow.
Surrounded by His loved ones, there, in that quiet place,
Surprise, and fear, and sorrow are seen on every face.
The evening lamp now lighted, from vaulted roof is hung,
A gentle soothing radiance o'er all the group has flung ;
Its sevenfold rays descending, a halo bright has shed,
Falling in silvery beauty about the Master's head.
The last rays of the sunset, beyond the open door,
Reveal the faithful Marys, who gaze around with awe.

THE servant of the good man, bearing the meal away :
They all have heard the Master these words in anguish say
"One of you shall betray Me"; and as the accents fall,
Those sad eyes full of sorrow, look round upon them all.
"One of you shall betray Me,"—we seem to hear them cry,
Even the voice of Judas joins with them, "Is it I ?"
Have they not learned the lesson, "The greatest shall be least" ?
Has not that dear One cleansed them, with whom they kept the feast?
And spoken words of comfort to all their company ?
And now He tells them sorrowing, that "one betrayeth Me."

THE water and the pitcher, the towel, all are there—
Has not that sad voice told them each other's griefs to share.
The manna pot upon the pier, dear to each pious Jew,
Telling of all those wanderings his fathers had passed through,
That has a voice for you and me, saying—The bread of life
For us was broken to sustain all through this earthly strife,
The unleavened bread upon the board, the cup and dish we see.
Bring back the words of love—"Do this in memory of Me."
Beneath the arch upon the pier, upon the other hand,
We see a fast expiring lamp, and then we understand
That symbol that the Saviour's life will very soon be o'er,
And in that borrowed upper room they will meet nevermore.
The palm branch set aside we see, token sweet of victory
That speaks of joyous Olivet, and not of Calvary ;
Soon will those voices heard again join in the awful cry,
Those glad hosannas all forgot for shouts of "Crucify."

WE know the awful story of suffering and pain ;
Oh, let us shut the world outside and ponder it again.
We know ere the morrow's sunset will those gentle tones be stilled ;
That form on which they're gazing will a borrowed grave have filled ;
That moon which lights the city will light up a cross of shame,
And those who profess to love Him will fear to own His name !
The sun withhold its shining, and darkness all will shroud,
And the voice now speaking sadly be lifted clear and loud ;
And the mocking ones will hear it, "Why hast Thou forsaken Me ?"
As that loving heart is broken on gloomy Calvary.

WE'LL ne'er forget the picture, the Saviour's look of pain,
We shall often think upon it, and ponder o'er again :
That lesson that the artist has taught to you and me.
The words the Lord is saying to that sad company
Will come to us when all around is hurry, care, and din—
A gentle warning, lifting us above this world of sin,
Oh, let us ask His guidance, that even you and I
May gather round Him in that land to praise eternally ;
To be in those fair mansions where He has gone before,
This world of change all left behind, and blest for evermore.

THE CALF'S PATH

One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home as good calves should:
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail as all calves do.

Since then three hundred years have fled,
And I infer the calf is dead:
But still he left behind his trail—
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day,
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him too,
As good bell-wethers always do.

And from that day o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made:
And many men wound in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,
And uttered words of righteous wrath,
Because 'twas such a crooked path,
But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migration of that calf.

Now that forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again.
The crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with its load
Toiled on, beneath the burning sun,
And travelled some three miles in one;
And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of a calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street.
And this, before men were aware—
A city's crowded thoroughfare.
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis:
And men two centuries and a half,
Trod in the footsteps of a calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zig-zag calf about;
And o'er the crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent,
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf now three centuries dead,
They follow still his crooked way,
And lose one hundred years a day—
For thus such reverence is lent
To well established precedent.

Now as we ponder o'er this tale
We can perceive another trail
How men are prone to follow blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun,
To do what other men have done
They follow in the beaten track
And out and in and forth and back
And still their devious course pursue
To keep the paths that others do—
But soon they'll learn a wiser way
For lo! There dawns the perfect day.

Isaiah 59: 8. 26, 9. 11: 1-9.

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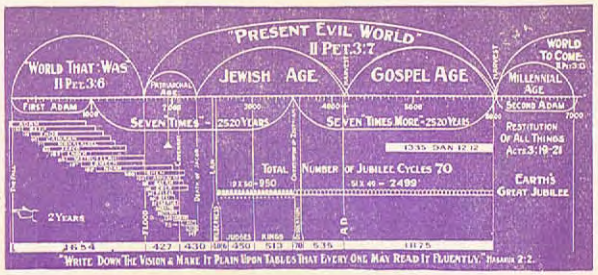
CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM!

A glorious time is coming, the morning promised long.
When truth and right with holy might, shall overthrow the wrong
When Christ the Lord and rightful king, empowered from on high
Will stretch his hand throughout the land, with justice by and by.

The boast of haughty tyrants no more shall fill the air,
But age and youth will love the truth, and speed it everywhere,
No more from want and sorrow shall come the hopeless cry,
But war shall cease and perfect peace will flourish by and by.

A glorious time is coming, the time of Jubilee,
With shout and song 'twill sweep along, like billows of the sea.
The joyfulness of nations shall ring through earth and sky.
This day of grace draws on apace—O happy by and by!

The glories of Christ's kingdom we gladly watch and pray,
Till o'er the height the morning light shall drive the gloom away,
For when the balm of healing shall reach mankind from high,
They'll turn toward their precious Lord and love Him by and by.



God's Wonderful Plan

THERE'S a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Though severe His judgments be.
For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

The poet has beautifully expressed the heart sentiments of Bible Students, who are rejoicing that the present dark night of weeping is about to give place to a morning of joy, as a brief survey of the chart above will show. —*Psa.* 30, 5. *Hab.* 2, 2. *Rom.* 13, 12. *Eph.* 3, 11.

The 'World that was' existed from the fall of Adam to the flood. That Dispensation was under the domination of angels, many of whom fell from Divine favour.—*Gen.* 6. *Jude* 6. 2 *Peter* 2, 4, 5.

The 'present evil World' is controlled by Satan, whose empire is a vast system of iniquity, entailing sorrow, strife, disease, and death; how true it is—"the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."—*Rom.* 8, 22. *Eph.* 2, 2. 2 *Cor.* 4, 4. *Gal.* 1, 4.

The 'World to come' will have Divine supervision. Evil will be no more, and righteousness, peace, joy and love will flow on through the ages of eternity.—*Isa.* 65, 17-19. *Rev.* 5, 13; 21, 1-4; 22, 1-3.

The Patriarchal and Jewish Ages mark God's dealing with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Jewish Race, to whom wonderful promises of deep import were given.—*Gen.* 22, 15-18. *Ex.* 19, 3-6. 1 *Cor.* 10, 11.

The Gospel Age commenced at our Lord's baptism at Jordan, and extends to his second advent. During this period God has been dealing with "the little flock" who have gladly followed in the sacrificial steps of the beloved Master.—*Luke* 12, 22-37. *Rom.* 8, 14-19. *Eph.* 1, 4-14.

The Millennial Age is truly a wonderful period, as it will witness the resurrection of every man, woman and child, who have died in Adam. In coming back from the condition of death (*Eccle.* 9, 10) they will have the glorious opportunity of KNOWING GOD and His dear Son who died for them. This knowledge will mean eternal life to the willing and obedient. O joy to the earth when Messiah reigns! THE TIME IS AT HAND and will follow the trouble now enveloping the whole earth.—*Zeph.* 3, 8, 9. *John* 5, 25-9; 17, 5. *Isa.* 26, 9. 1 *Chr.* 16, 23-36.

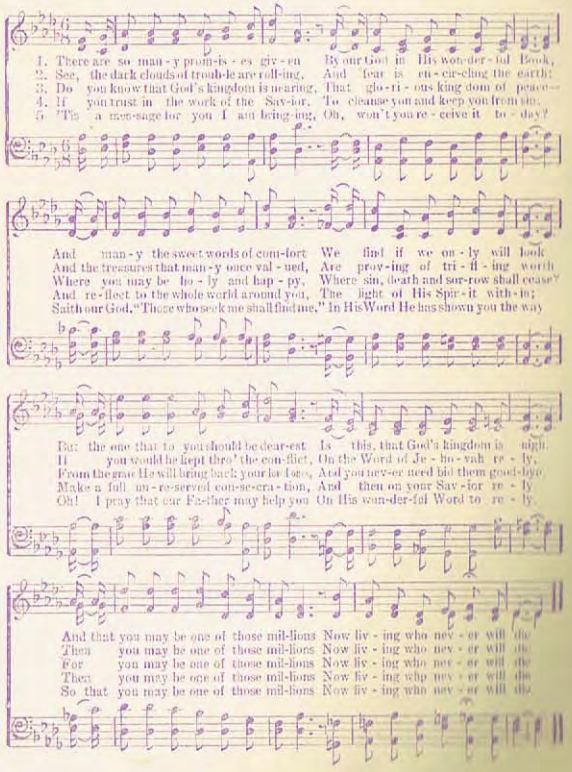
(*See Literature of The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society*).

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
PSALM 30. 5.

Millions now living will never die

Psalm 44:2. Zeph. 2:3. Isaiah 2:2-4.

A Golden Age Song.



A Legend of Service.

IT pleased the Lord of Angels (praise His name)
To hear, one day, report from those who came
With pitying sorrow or exaltant joy,
To tell of earthly tasks in His employ;
For some were sorry when they saw how slow
The stream of heavenly love must flow:
And some were glad because their eyes had seen
Along its banks fresh flowers of living green.
So at a certain hour before the throne
The youngest angel, Asmiel, stood alone
Not glad, nor sad, but full of earnest thought,
And thus his tidings to the Master brought:
"Lord in the City Lupon I have found
Three servants of thy holy name renowned
Above their fellows. One is very wise
With thoughts that ever range above the skies,
And one is gifted with golden speech,
That make men glad to hear when he doth teach.
And one, with no rare gift or grace endued,
Has won the people's love by doing good.
With these three saints Lupon is trebly blest
But, Lord, I fain would know who loves thee best?"

THEN spake the Lord of Angels, before whose look
The hearts of all are like an open book,
"In every soul, the secret thought I read
And well I know who loves me best indeed.
But every life has pages vacant still,
Whereon a man may write the things he will;
Therefore I read in silence day by day,
And wait for hearts untaught to learn my way.
But thou shalt go to Lupon, to the three
Who serve me there, and take this word from me,
Tell each of them his Master bids him go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
There he shall find a certain task for me,
But what, I do not tell to them nor thee.
Give them the message, make my word the test,
And crown for me the one who answers best."

FORTHWITH the angel obedient and elate,
Passed the self-same hour through Lupon's gate.
First to the temple door he made his way
And there, because it was a holy day,
He saw the folk by thousands thronging, stirred
By ardent thirst, to hear the preacher's word.
Then, while the echoes murmured Bernol's name,
Through the aisles that hushed behind him Bernol came.
Strung to the highest pitch of conscious might,
With lips prepared and firm and eyes alight,
One moment at the pulpit steps he knelt
In silent prayer, and on his shoulders felt
The angel's hand:—"The Master bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
To serve Him there." Then, Bernol's hidden face
Went white as death, and for about the space
Of ten slow heart-beats there was no reply,
Till Bernol looked around and whispered—"Why?"
But answer to his question came there none:
The angel sighed, and with that sigh was gone.

WITHIN the humble house, where Malvin spent
His studious years, on holy things intent,
Sweet stillness reigned, and there the angel found
The saintly sage immersed in thought profound.
Weaving with patient toil and willing care
A web of wisdom, wonderful and rare ;
A beauteous robe for truth's great bridal meet,
And needing but one more thread to be complete.
Then Asmiel touched his hand and broke the thread
Of fine spun thought, and very gently said,—
" The One of whom thou thinkest bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow
To serve Him there." With sorrow and surprise
Malvin looked up, reluctance in his eyes.
The broken thought, the strangeness of the call,
The perilous passage of the mountain wall
Appalled him. With a doubtful brow
He scanned the doubtful task and muttered—"How?"
And Asmiel answered, as he turned to go,
With sad disheartened voice : " I do not know!"

NOW as he went with fading hope to seek
The third and last to whom God made him speak,
Scarce twenty steps away whom should he meet
But Fermor, hurrying cheerful down the street.
With ready heart that faced his work like play,
And joyed to find it greater every day,
The angel stopped him with uplifted hand,
And gave without delay, his Lord's command.
" He, whom thou servest, would'st have thee go
Alone to Spiran's huts across the snow
To serve Him there." Ere Asmiel breathed again
The eager answer leaped to meet him—"When?"
The angel's face with inward joy grew bright,
And all his figure glowed with heavenly light,
He took the golden circlet fron his brow
And gave the crown to Fermor, answering—"Now!"
For thou hast met the Master's hidden test,
And I have found the man who loves Him best ;
Not thine, nor mine, to question or reply,
When He commands us, asking 'How?' or 'Why?' ;
He knows the cause ; His ways are wise and just,
Who serves the King, must serve with perfect trust."

Rock of Ages.

"ROCK of ages, cleft for me!"—
Thoughtlessly the maiden sung ;
Fell the words unconsciously from her girlish, gleeful tongue.
Sang as little children sing, sang as sing the birds in June,
Fell the words like light leaves down on the current of the tune.

"Let me hide myself in Thee!"—Felt herself no need to hide,
Sweet the song as sweet could be, and she had no thought beside.
All the words unheedingly fell from lips untouched by care,
Dreaming not that they might be on some other lips a prayer.

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—'Twas a woman sung them now,
Pleadingly and prayerfully, every word her heart did know.
Rose the song like storm-tossed bird beats with weary wing the air
Every note with sorrow stirred, every syllable a prayer!

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—Lips grown aged sang that hymn,
Trustingly and tenderly, voice grown weak and eyes grown dim.
" I am hidden safe in Thee " trembling though the voice and low,
Ran the sweet strain peacefully, like a river in its flow.
Sung as only they can sing whose life's thorny path have pressed,
Sung as only they can sing who behold the promised rest!

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—sung above a coffin lid,
Underneath all restfully all life's joys and sorrows hid.
Nevermore, O storm-tossed soul, nevermore from wind or tide,
Nevermore from billows roll wilt thou need thyself to hide.
Could the sightless sunken eyes closed beneath the soft grey hair,
Could the mute and stiffening lips move again in pleading prayer
Still, aye, still, the words would be—" Rock of ages cleft for me!"

"INSTEAD"

INSTEAD of the thorn there shall
come up the fir tree,
Instead of the brier the myrtle
shall spring,
Back to the glory and freshness
and beauty,
God will creation triumphantly
bring.
Streams o'er the land will gladly be
swelling,
The flowers in the desert a frag-
rance shall shed,
The mountains and valleys shall
sweetly be telling
That Jehovah our God is ruling
instead.

Isaiah 55 : 13.

ALONE in the garden—His chosen
are sleeping—
The sinless Redeemer how meekly
he kneels!
His burning entreaty, His sorrow
and weeping
To the heart of Jehovah, His
anguish reveals.
"Not my will, O Father, but Thine
I have taken!"
Though heavy the stroke that
must fall on His head
He goes to the cross to be cursed
and forsaken
To give us the cup of salvation
instead.

Isaiah 53.

BUT now we'll rejoice for the glad
day is nearing,
For which all creation travaileth
in pain,
When Christ our Redeemer in glory
appearing
Shall take to Himself, His great
power and reign:
Then Satan no more his evil
extending,
For all over earth Christ's King-
dom shall spread.
With fulness of joy the song e'er
ascending
That Jesus Immanuel is ruling
instead.

Isaiah 9 : 6, 7.

Ezek.
41 : 7

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Still upward to the highest!

Still upward to the highest realm,
To life so full and free;
A place with me within my throne,
Mid anthem choirs of purest tone,
No greater glory could be shown—
Such prayers unite for thee!

Still upward—where my Father dwells,
Through paths thou hast not known,
Belovèd kept by power divine,
Whilst beams of light upon thee shine,
An outstretched hand tight-clasped in mine,
Thou walk'st with me alone.

Still upward though thou stumble oft,
And trials grieve thy soul,
Press on with joy to know my mind,
The golden gate of life to find,
To suffer long and e'er be kind—
Till faith hath cleansed thee whole.

Still upward—then let hopeful songs
Fill hallowed courts above!
Still upward! onward! honour me!
Whilst truth and mercy comfort thee,
Till—token of thy victory—
Thou knowest God's great Love.

The Minister's Daughter.

In the minister's morning sermon,
He told of the primal fall,
And how thenceforth the wrath of God
Rested on each and all.

And how, of His will and pleasure,
All souls, save a chosen few,
Were doomed to eternal torture,
And held in the way thereto.

Yet never, by faith's unreason,
A saintlier soul was tried,
And never the harsh old lesson
A tenderer heart belied.

And after the painful service,
On that pleasant, bright first day,
He walked with his little daughter
Through the apple bloom of May.

Sweet in the fresh green meadow
Sparrow and blackbird sung;
Above him its tinted petals
The blossoming orchard hung.

Around, on the wonderful glory,
The minister looked and smiled:
"How good is the Lord, who gives us
These gifts from His hand, my child.

"Behold in the bloom of apples,
And the violets in the sward,
A hint of the old, lost beauty
Of the Garden of the Lord."

Then up spake the little maiden,
Treading on snow and pink,
"O father! these pretty blossoms
Are very wicked, I think.

"Had there been no Garden of Eden,
There had never been a fall,
And if never a tree had blossomed
God would have loved us all."

"Hush, child!" the father answered,
"By His decree man fell;
His ways are in clouds and darkness,
But He doeth all things well.

"And whether by His ordaining
To us cometh good or ill,
Joy or pain, or light or shadow,
We must fear and love Him still."

"O, I fear Him!" said the daughter,
"And I try to love Him, too;
But I wish He were kind and gentle,
Kind and loving as you."

The minister groaned in spirit,
As the tremulous lips of pain,
And wide, wet eyes uplifted,
Questioned his own in vain.

Bowing his head he pondered
The words of his little one.
Had he erred in his lifelong teachings,
Had he wrong to his Master done?

To what grim and dreadful idol
Had he lent the Holiest Name?
Did his own heart, loving and human,
The God of his worship shame?

And lo! from the bloom and greenness,
From the tender skies above,
And the face of his little daughter,
He read a lesson of love.

No more as the cloudy terror
Of Sinai's Mount of Law,
But as Christ in the Syrian lilies,
The vision of God he saw.

And as when, in the clefts of Horeb,
Of old was His presence known,
The dread, ineffable glory
Was Infinite goodness alone.

Thereafter his hearers noted
In his prayers a tenderer strain,
And never the message of hatred
Burned on his lips again.

And the scoffing tongue was prayerful,
And the blinded eyes found sight,
And hearts as flint aforetime
Grew soft in his warmth and light.

The Bridegroom's Dove

"O my dove, thou art in the clefts of the rock."
Cant. 2: 14.

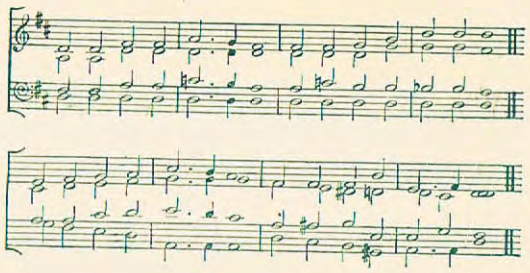
"MY dove!" The bridegroom speaks to whom?
Whom, thinkest thou, meaneth He?
Say, O my soul! canst thou presume
He thus addresseth thee?
Yes, 'tis the Bridegroom's voice of love,
Calling thee, O my soul! His dove!

THE dove is gentle, mild and meek,
Deserve I, then, the name?
I look within in vain to seek
Aught which can give a claim:
Yet, made so by redeeming love,
My soul, thou art the Bridegroom's Dove!

AS the poor dove, before the hawk,
Quick to her refuge flies,
So need I in my daily walk,
The wings which faith supplies,
To bear me where the Bridegroom's love
Places beyond all harm his dove!

THE dove hath neither claw nor sting,
No weapon for the fight:
She owes her safety to her wing,
Her victory to flight.
A shelter hath the Bridegroom's love
Provided for His helpless dove!

O HAPPY dove! thus weak, thus safe;
Do I resemble her?
Then to my soul, O Lord! vouchsafe
A dove-like character!
Pure, harmless, gentle, full of love,
Make me in spirit, Lord, a DOVE!



ZION'S GLAD SONG

Father, we would gladly raise
This our song in grateful praise:
Thou hast granted us Thy peace
Hence our joys will never cease.

In Thy sacred Word we find
Thou art gracious good and kind.
Thou hast borne so patiently
Borne our wayward frailty.

Jesus Christ, Thine own dear Son,
Died for us and everyone,
Soon begins His welcome reign,
Bringing peace and life again.

We would fear no earthly loss,
Daily taking up our cross:
Thankfully we will proclaim
Honor to Thy Holy name.

Father we would ne'er let go
Thy dear hand while here below
Firmer clasp O let there be,
Ever draw us nearer Thee.

Royal anthems now are heard,
Hearts in unison are stirred,
Praising Thee the All-supreme
Joy beyond the brightest dream!

Wondrous workings thus we trace,
Glad'ning glories of Thy grace!
Beauteous bounties of Thy love,
Beaming from the heights above!

Psa. 40: 1-3. Rev. 15: 3, 4.

The Best of Wishes.

Faith, Hope, Love

1 Corinthians 13

Faith

GOD grant thee FAITH—true faith in Him
Whose word can never fail.
Strong in His truth, His power and might
No foe will e'er prevail.
A faith which, like a little child,
Will trust the guiding hand;
Which through the storms of earthly strife
Doth yet securely stand.

Hope

GOD grant thee HOPE—that longs for home
To meet thy Grand Desire.
O may thy soul in tune with His
Yet deeper joys inspire!
A hope which like the living flame
Consumes the things of earth.
A hope which greets the Living Lord
In realm of Spirit birth.

Love

GOD grant thee LOVE—the greatest thing
That tongue can ever tell!
For 'God is Love,' and in that love
His saints forever dwell.
Love is the fulness of His grace
With thanks and praise expressed.
Perfection's goal is gained at last
And God's Eternal Rest!

St. John the Aged.

"The Disciple whom Jesus loved."—John 13: 23.

SOME seventy years ago I was a fisher by the Sea of Galilee. It was at sunset. How the tranquil tide bathed dreamily the pebbles. How the light crept up the distant hills, and in its wake soft purple shadows wrapped the dewy fields! And then HE came and called me. Then I gazed for the first time on that sweet face. Those eyes, out of which shone Divinity, looked on my inmost soul, and lighted it forever. Then His words broke on the silence of my heart. His love took hold of me and claimed me for its own. There in the twilight I followed, holding fast his mantle.

Oh, what holy walks we had through harvest fields, and desolate dreary wastes! Oftentimes He leaned upon my arm, wearied and worn: I was young and strong and so upbore Him. Lord, now I am

weak and old and feeble! Let me rest on Thee! So, put Thine arm around me. Closer still! How strong Thou art!

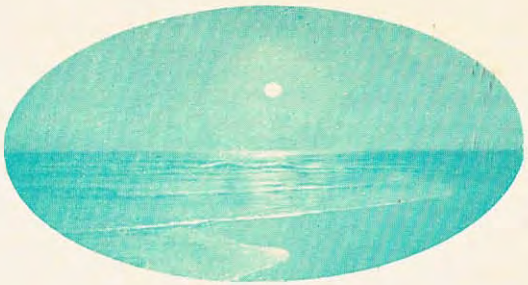
The twilight, even now, draws on apace. Come, let us leave the noisy streets and take the path to Bethany; for Mary's smile awaits us at the gate, and Martha's hands have prepared the cheerful evening meal. Come, James, the Master waits, and Peter, see, has gone some steps before!

What say you, friends? that Christ has gone to His Heavenly home! Ay, 'tis so, 'tis so, I know it all; and yet, once more I seemed to stand upon my native hills with the Master as of old. O, how oft I've seen Him bring back strength to palsied limbs! I feel He has to mine. Up! bear me once more to my flock! Once more let me tell of our Saviour's love; for by the sweetness of the Master's voice just now, I think He must be very near. Coming perhaps to break the veil which time has worn so thin that I can almost see beyond.

How dark it is! I cannot see the faces of my flock. Is that the sea that murmurs so, or—is it weeping? Hush, my children. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son: So, love ye one another. Love God and man. Amen. Now bear me back. Why call ye me the Holy John? Nay, call me rather, Jesus Christ's beloved, and lover of my children.

Lay me down once more upon my couch, and open wide the eastern window. See, there comes a light like that which broke upon my soul at eve, when in the dreary isle of Patmos, Gabriel came and touched me. See, it grows! and hark! How sweet that song the ransomed sing. Glory to the Lamb! How loud it sounds! Methinks my soul can join it now.

O, my Lord, my Lord! How bright Thou art! and yet the very same I loved in Galilee. 'Tis worth the hundred years to feel this bliss! So lift me up, dear Lord, unto Thy bosom. There shall I abide."



Her heart can see!

Eph. 1: 18

"SWEET blind singer, over the sea,
Tuneful and jubilant, how can it be
That the songs of gladness, which float so far,
As if they fall from an evening star.
Are the notes of one who may never see
Visible music of flower and tree?

* * * *

How can she sing in the dark like this?
What is her fountain of light and bliss?

* * * *

Her heart can see, her heart can see!
Well may she sing so joyously!
For the King himself, in His tender grace
Hath shown her the brightness of His face.

* * * *

Dear blind sister over the sea!
A joyous heart goes forth to thee,
We are linked by a cable of faith and song,
Flashing bright sympathy, swift along:
One in the east and one in the west,
Singing for Him, whom our souls love best.

* * * *

Sister! what will our meeting be,
When our hearts shall sing, and our eyes shall
see?"

Longing for Home!

As pants the hart for water brooks, so pants my soul for Thee.
Oh, when shall I behold Thy face, when wilt Thou call for me?

How oft at night I turn mine eyes towards my heavenly home,
And long for that blest time when Thou my Lord, shall bid me,
"Come!"

And yet I know that only those Thy blessed face shall see,
Whose hearts from every stain of sin are purified and free.

And oh, my Master and my Lord, I know I'm far from meet
With all Thy blessed saints in light to hold communion sweet.

I know that those who share Thy throne must in Thy blessed be
And all the Spirit's precious fruits in them the Father see.

Lord, grant me grace more patiently to strive with my poor heart
And bide Thy time to be with Thee and see Thee at Thou art!

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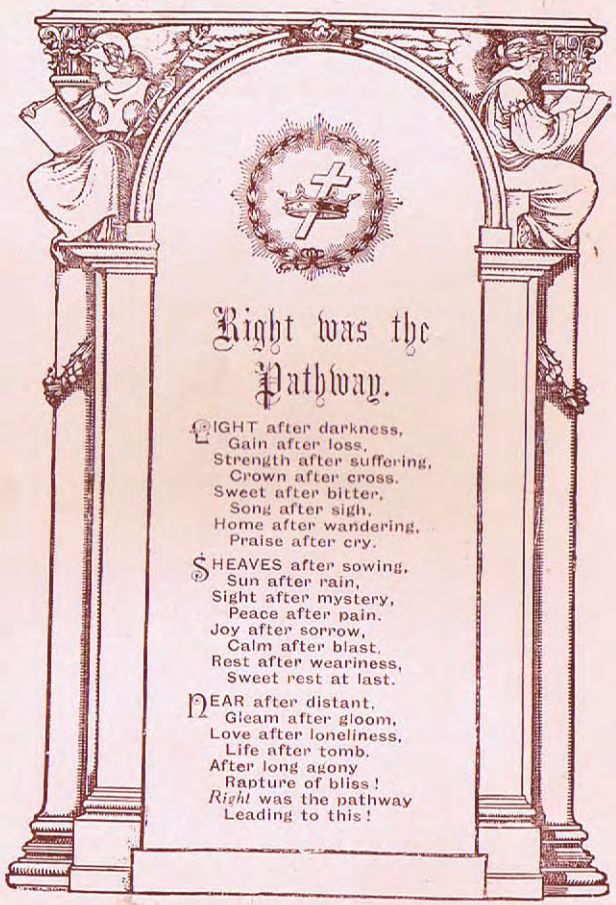


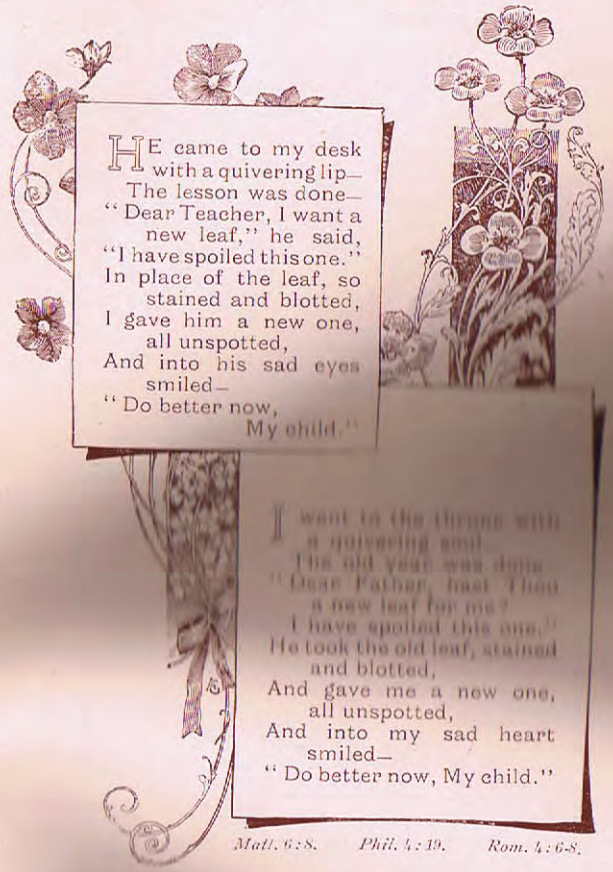
Right was the Pathway.

RIGHT after darkness,
Gain after loss,
Strength after suffering,
Crown after cross.
Sweet after bitter,
Song after sigh,
Home after wandering,
Praise after cry.

SHEAVES after sowing,
Sun after rain,
Sight after mystery,
Peace after pain.
Joy after sorrow,
Calm after blast,
Rest after weariness,
Sweet rest at last.

NEAR after distant,
Gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness,
Life after tomb.
After long agony
Rapture of bliss!
Right was the pathway
Leading to this!

The New Leaf.



HE came to my desk
with a quivering lip—
The lesson was done—
"Dear Teacher, I want a
new leaf," he said,
"I have spoiled this one."
In place of the leaf, so
stained and blotted,
I gave him a new one,
all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes
smiled—
"Do better now,
My child."

I went to the throne with
a quivering soul
The old year was done
"Dear Father, hast Thou
a new leaf for me?
I have spoiled this one."
He took the old leaf, stained
and blotted,
And gave me a new one,
all unspotted,
And into my sad heart
smiled—
"Do better now, My child."

Matt. 6:8. Phil. 4:19. Rom. 4:6-8.

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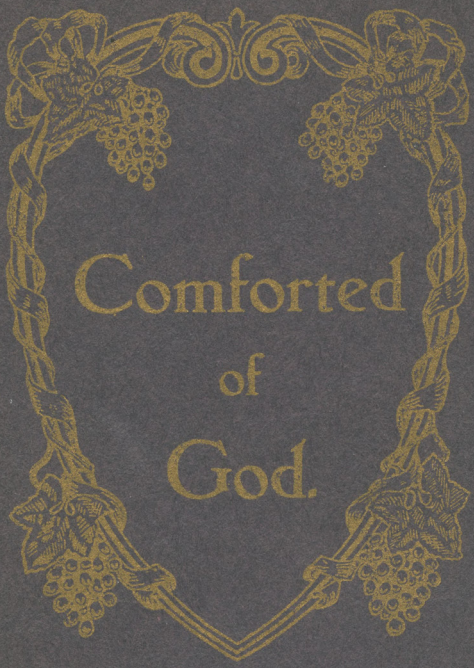
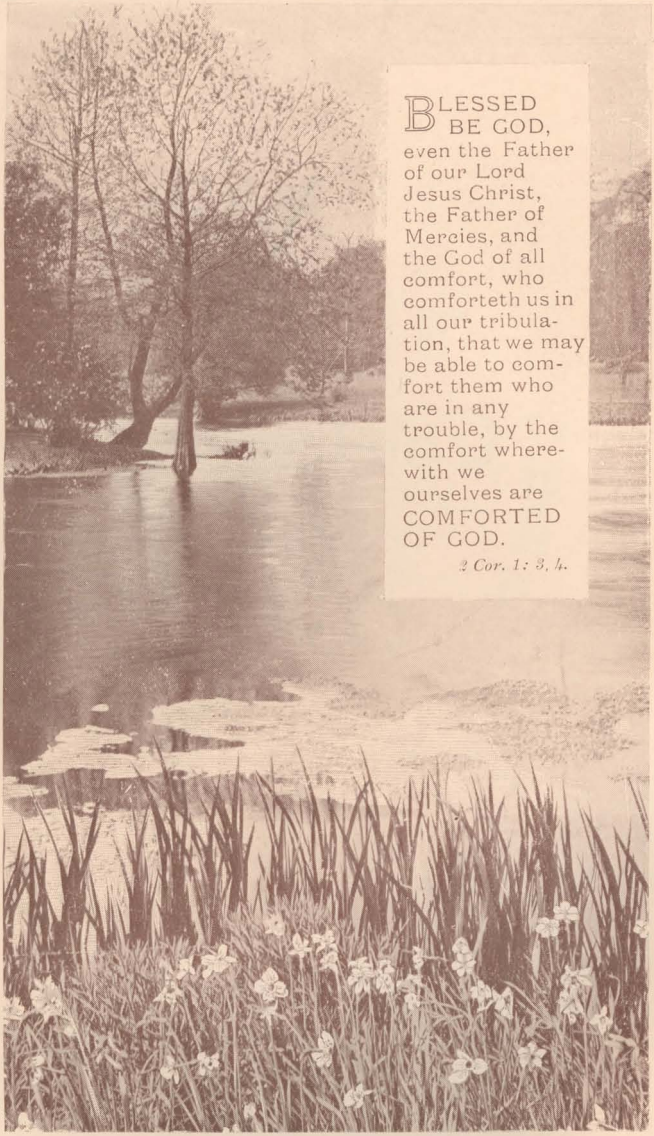

Comforted
of
God.

Comforted of God.


BLESSED BE GOD, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are COMFORTED OF GOD.
2 Cor. 1: 3, 4.

"Consider the Lilies."

He cares for thee!

1 Peter v. 7. *Matt. vi. 28, 29.*

How good and kind our Father's care!
The words like music in the air
Come answering to our whispered prayer,
He cares for thee.

The thought great comfort with it brings,
Our cares are all such little things
When to this truth a glad faith clings,
He cares for thee.

The pure white lilies know no care,
And yet they grow so grand and fair,
Shedding sweet fragrance here and there
God cares for these.

Great is God's care for His dear child,
Guarding from foe and danger wild
With love so strong and undefiled,
He cares for thee.

And that sweet love will on thee shine
Making His home for ever thine;
O! the rich depths of Love Divine
He shares with thee.

Tune: "Ombersley" (Bristol).

The Changed Cross

It was a time of sadness—and my heart,
Although it knew and loved the better part,
Felt wearied with the conflict and the strife,
And all the needful discipline of life.

And while I thought on these—as given to me,
My trial-tests of faith and love to be,
It seemed as if I never could be sure
That faithful to the end I should endure.

And thus, no longer trusting to His might
Who says "We walk by faith and not by sight,"
Doubting—and almost yielding to despair,
The thought arose, *My cross I cannot bear !*

Far heavier its weight must surely be
Than those of others which I daily see;
Oh, if I might another burden choose,
Methinks I should not fear my crown to lose

A solemn silence reigned on all around,
E'en nature's voices uttered not a sound;
The evening shadows seemed of peace to tell,
And sleep upon my weary spirit fell.

A moment's pause—and then a heavenly light
Beamed full upon my wondering, raptured sight;
Angels on silvery wings seemed everywhere,
And angels' music thrilled the balmy air.

Then One more fair than all the rest to see,
One to whom all the others bowed the knee,
Came gently to me as I trembling lay,
And, "Follow me," He said, "I am the Way."

Then speaking thus, He led me far above,
And there, beneath a canopy of love,
Crosses of divers shape and size were seen,
Larger and smaller than mine own had been.

And one there was most beauteous to behold—
A little one, with jewels set in gold;
Ah, this, methought, I can with comfort wear,
For it will be an easy one to bear.

And so the little cross I quickly took;
But all at once my frame beneath it shook—
The sparkling jewels, fair were they to *see*,
But far too heavy was their *weight* for me.

This may not be, I cried, and looked again
To see if any there could ease my pain,
But one by one I passed them slowly by,
Till on a lovely one I cast my eye.

Fair flowers around its sculptured form entwined,
And grace and beauty seemed in it combined;
Wondering I gazed—and still I wondered more
To think so many should have passed it o'er.

But oh, that form so beautiful to see,
Soon made its hidden sorrows known to me;—
Thorns lay beneath those flowers and colours fair;
Sorrowing I said, This cross I may not bear.

And so it was with each and all around,
Not one to suit my *need* could there be found;
Weeping, I laid each heavy burden down,
As my Guide gently said, "No cross—no crown."

At length to Him I raised my saddened heart;
He knew its sorrows, bid its doubts depart,—
"Be not afraid," He said, "but trust in me,
My perfect love shall now be shown to thee."

And then, with lightened eyes and willing feet,
Again I turned my earthly cross to meet,
With forward footsteps, turning not aside,
For fear some hidden evil might betide.

And there, in the prepared, appointed way,
Listening to hear, and ready to obey,
A cross I quickly found of plainest form,
With only words of love inscribed thereon.

With thankfulness I raised it from the rest,
And joyfully acknowledged it the best;
The *only* one of all the many there,
That I could feel was *good* for me to bear.

And while I thus my chosen one confessed,
I saw a heavenly brightness on it rest,
And as I bent my burden to sustain,
I recognised my own old cross again!

But oh, how different did it seem to be,
Now I had learned its preciousness to see!
No longer could I unbelieving say;
Perhaps another is a better way.

Ah, no! henceforth my one desire shall be,
That He who knows me best should choose for me,
And so, whate'er His love sees good to send,
I'll trust is best—because He knows the end.

Lord Jesus, make thyself to me
A living bright reality!
More present to Faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen,
More dear, more intimately nigh,
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

"Yet will I not forget Thee"

Isa. 49 : 15-16. *Psalm* 137 : 5-6.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" My cherished one, Mine own,
I will not leave thee comfortless, life's path to tread alone,
'Tis better that those outstretched hands, those clinging hands of thine
Be loosed, beloved, from every clasp of other hands but mine.
Though earthly loves and earthly hopes afar from thee be set,
Remember still, My chosen one, thee will I not forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" though thou hast oft forgot,
And turned unheeding from My voice, My words obeying not :
Yet with Mine own, my dying soul, I bore away thy past ;
I took thy sin upon my heart, which broke for thee at last.
But on this heart for ever, let thou thy love be set,
Thy name engraven on these hands, thee will I not forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" My joy ! My undefiled !
Made perfect thro' My loveliness wrapt round a wandering child.
I will forget thy wanderings, I will forget thy sin ;
And cast them all behind My back, as though they ne'er had been.
But thee My sealed, My chosen, on whom My love is set
I've love alone toward thee—how can I then forget.

"**YET will I not forget thee,**" in mine own garden bowers,
I water every moment the humblest fragrant flowers.
For mine own Royal Diadem, for My celestial crown.
There waiteth still some precious gems of fair and bright renown.
And when I wreathe My flowers, and when My gems are set
In heaven's glory on My brow, " thee will I not forget."

O Love that will not let me go!

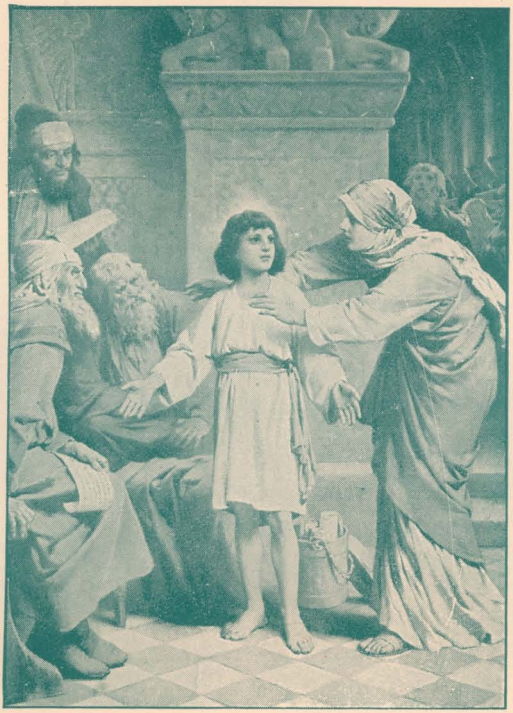
LOVE that will not let me go—I rest my weary soul on Thee:
I give Thee back the life I owe that in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

LIGHT that followest all my way—I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

JOY that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

CROSS that liftest up my head I would not ask to fly from thee;
E'en death's cold wave I need not dread, for in thy home where glories spread
My life shall endless be.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.



Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business

WHEN Jesus was twelve years old, his parents went to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And as they returned the child tarried behind; and Joseph and his mother knew it not, supposing him to have been in the company. After a day's journey they sought him, and when they found him not they turned back again to Jerusalem.

And it came to pass, that, after three days they found him in the midst of the religious rulers, both hearing them and asking them questions, while all who heard him were astonished at his intelligence.

And when his parents saw him they were amazed and his mother said "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold we have sought Thee in anguish of spirit." "Why is it that you have been searching for me?" he replied, "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." But they understood him not, but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

They returned to Nazareth and he was subject unto them and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52.

The child Samuel answered "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."
I Sam. 3.

Hushed was the Evening Hymn.

HUSHED was the evening hymn, the temple courts were dark;
The lamp was burning dim before the sacred ark:
When suddenly a voice Divine, rang through the silence of the shrine.

OH give me Samuel's ear—the open ear O Lord;
Alive and quick to hear each whisper of thy word;
Like him to answer at thy call, and to obey Thee first of all.

OH give me Samuel's heart!—a lonely heart that waits
When in Thy house Thou art; or watches at Thy gates
By day and night—a heart that still moves at the breathing of Thy will.

OH give me Samuel's mind! a sweet, unmurmering faith,
Obedient and resigned to Thee in life and death:
That I may read, with childlike eyes, truths that are hidden from the wise.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.

God moves in a mysterious way

GOD moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

DEEP in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

YE fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

JUDGE not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face.

HIS purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

BLIND unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

In a Mysterious Way.

"NO," said the lawyer, "I shan't press your claim against that man; you can get someone else to take the case, or you can withdraw it, just as you please. There would probably be some money in it, but it would, as you know, come from the sale of the little house the man occupies and calls 'home'; but I don't want to meddle with the matter, anyhow."

"I suppose likely the old fellow begged to be let off?"

"Well—yes, he did."

"And you?"

"I didn't speak a word to him."

"Oh, he did all the talking, did he? What did you do?"

"I believe I shed a few tears; he didn't speak a word to me."

"Well, may I respectfully inquire whom he did address in your hearing?"

"Almighty God. But, not for my benefit in the least. You see"—the lawyer crossed his right foot over his left knee, and began stroking his lower leg up and down, as if to help state his case concisely—"you see, I found the little house easily enough, and knocked on the outer door which stood ajar, but nobody heard me; so I stepped into the little hall, and saw through the crack of another door just as cosy a sitting room as there ever was.

"There, on a bed, with her silver head way up high on the pillows, was an old lady. I was on the point of knocking, when she said, as clearly as could be, 'Come, father, now begin; I'm all ready'—and down on his knees by her side went an old white-haired man, still older than his wife, I should judge; and I couldn't have knocked then. He began to pray; first he reminded God they were still his submissive children, mother and he, and no matter what He saw fit to bring upon them, they should'nt rebel at His will; of course 'twas going to be very hard for them to go out homeless in their old age, specially with poor mother, so sick and helpless, but still they'd seen sadder things than ever that would be. He reminded God, in the next place how different it might have been if only one of their boys had been spared them; then his voice kind of broke, and a thin white hand stole from under the coverlet and moved softly over his snowy hair; then he went on to repeat that nothing could be so sharp again as the parting with those three sons

—unless mother and he should be separated. But at last he fell to comforting himself with the fact that the dear Lord knew it was through no fault of his own that mother and he were threatened with the loss of their dear little home, which meant beggary, in a place they prayed to be delivered from entering, if it could be consistent with God's will; and then he fell to quoting a multitude of promises concerning the safety of those who put their trust in the Lord. Yes, I should say he begged hard; in fact, it was the most thrilling plea to which I ever listened; and at last he prayed for God's blessing on those who were about to demand justice." The lawyer stroked his lower limb in silence for a moment or two, then he continued, more slowly than ever: "And—I—believe—I'd rather go to the poorhouse myself, to-night, than to stain my heart and hands with the blood of such a prosecution as that."

"You are afraid to defeat the old man's prayer?" queried the client.

"Bless your soul, man, you couldn't defeat it!" He left it all subject to the will of God; but he left no doubt as to his wishes in the matter; claimed that we were told to make known our desires unto God, but of all the pleading I ever heard, that beat all. You see, I was taught that kind of thing in my childhood; and, why I was sent to hear that prayer, I'm sure I don't know; but I hand the case over."

"I wish," said the client, twisting uneasily, "you hadn't told me about the old fellow's prayer, because I want the money the place would bring; but I was taught the Bible when I was a youngster, and I'd hate to run counter to such an harangue as that you tell me about. I wish you hadn't heard a word of it; and another time I wouldn't listen to petitions not intended for my ears."

The lawyer smiled.

"My dear fellow," he said, "you're wrong again; it was intended for my ears, and yours, too, and God Almighty intended it. My old mother used to sing about God's moving in a mysterious way, I remember."

"Well, my mother used to sing about it too," said the claimant, as he twisted his claim-papers in his fingers. "You can call in the morning, if you like, and tell 'mother and him' the claim has been met."

"In a mysterious way," added the lawyer, smiling.

"She hath done what she could"

Mark 14 : 8, 9.

IT IS NOT OUR PRIVILEGE to come into personal contact with our dear Redeemer, but it is our privilege to anoint the Lord's "brethren" with the sweet perfume of love, sympathy, joy and peace, and the more costly this may be as respects our self-denials, the more precious it will be in the estimation of our Elder Brother, who declared that in proportion as we do or do not unto His brethren, we do or do not unto Him. Our alabaster boxes are our hearts, which should be full of the richest and choicest perfumes of good wishes, kindness and love toward all, but especially toward the Christ—toward the Head, our Lord Jesus, and toward all the members of His body, the Church ; and especially on our part toward the feet members who are now with us, and on whom we now have the privilege of pouring out the sweet odours of love and devotion in the name of the Lord, because we are His.

Love's Victory.

IT takes great love within the loyal heart
To live beyond the others and apart;
A love that is not shallow, is not small,
Is not for one or two, but is for all.
Love that can wound love, for its highest need;
Love that can leave love, though a heart may plead.
Love that can choose the right and leave the wrong;
And breathe in hope and joy the victor's song;
A love that will not waver, that will find
Just what it means to suffer and be kind.

IT takes great love to conquer self and pride,
And swim against the swift and evil tide;
A love that wends its course to that grand height
Where dwells our God, enthroned in wondrous light;
Like that great love our Lord did sweet express,
So strong in faith and patient tenderness.
Yea, like the glowing sun, this Love must live,
Moved by one burning deathless force—to give.
Love, faith and courage; courage, faith and love,
Of such are God's victors crowned from above.

"Neither shall they learn war any more." *Isa.* 2 : 4.

Thy Kingdom Come!

Thv Kingdom come! the cry gone forth, in every land, east, west, south, north,
From age to age, two thousand years, the cry gone forth with pleading tears.

Thy Kingdom come! what meaneth this? doth it spell woe or happy bliss,
Dread and pain, and depth of sorrow, or doth it tend a glad to-morrow?

Thy Kingdom come! the pomp of earth have counted little on Thy worth!
And still they laugh with vain derision, and turn their eyes from such a vision.

Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done! the time speeds on as with the sun,
This means that earth—so clearly told—a wondrous change will now behold.

And why? Remember how it rang, the message that the angels sang—
"Goodwill to men, and peace on earth," which means to all another birth.

For He must reign who died for all, till friend and foe, and great and small,
Are back again from their death sleep; He gave His life to save His sheep.

No more they'll hear the awful din of selfishness and war and sin;
For rank a d file of every nation will flow to God—a new creation.

The prophecies, to be fulfilled, speak of the land when it is tilled.
Will yield like some transcendent story, delights of unsurpassing glory!

Far, far beyond all human thought, laden with riches and pleasures fraught,
Reserved for those who bow the knee to Him who died on Calvary.

Thy Kingdom come! who will not pray in this dark world of sin and say:—
O may it come O let there be one will alone; He lives for me.

E'en now before the sun shines bright, before the flooding of the light!
There're blessings great and grand and fair, the Truth to know, a life to share,

And best of all that deep'ning love, ten thousand times a mother's love!
Surpassing all the fondest dream that links with us the great Supreme!

Mat. 6: 10.

The Lost Sheep

IN the East the Good Shepherd is known by his faithful watch-care over his sheep, which is exercised at the constant risk of personal danger. Under this figure the great sacrifice of Jesus is seen with illustrious force and beauty. Through the merit of Redemptive Sacrifice "the lost sheep," as represented by "all in Adam" will be raised from the dead and be granted the gracious opportunity of attaining to human perfection, the basic characteristics of which are meekness, docility and obedience to the "Good Shepherd." The result will be eternal life on the perfect earth.

Isa. 53. Luke 2 : 8-14. 2 Cor. 8 : 9. Phil. 2 : 5-11. Isa. 35.

THERE were ninety-and-nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away
Far off from the gates of gold:—
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

LORD Thou hast here Thy ninety-and-nine,
Are they not enough for Thee?
But the Shepherd answered "This sheep is Mine
Which has wandered away from Me."
And although the road was so rough and steep
He went to the desert to save His sheep.

BUT none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through
Ere He found His sheep that was lost:
Out in the desert He heard its cry—
Sick and helpless and ready to die.

AND all through the mountains, thunder riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a cry to the gate of heaven:
"Rejoice! I have found My sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
Rejoice! for the Lord brings back His own.

Tune—Sankey's Hymnal.

Back to their own Borders.

THE little brook that runs by my door
  Is locked in its icy bed.
The little birds that I loved of yore,
  Have gone from the branch o'erhead.
The leaves have dropped from the lilac tree,
  The grass is under the snow,
And the plaintive note of the chickadee,
  Is the only sound I know.

BUT I know the birds will come back to me,
  The brook will flow again;
The wee brown buds on the lilac tree
  Will burst into leaves; and then
My lawn will come from its hiding place,
  The birds will sing and will mate;
And I'll hear of their songs of love and grace
  So I'll thankfully, patiently, wait.

THE little ones whom I loved so much,
  Were blessed with their baby charms,
Yielding my heart to their loving touch,
  Have gone from my mother arms.
It is lonesome and still in the nursery now,
  I dread to go by its door:
And sometimes in sorrow my heart will bow
  When I handle their toys once more.

BUT, oh, from the hand of the enemy,
  When the winter of death is o'er,
My little ones all will come back to me,
  And gladden my heart once more.
As the calves in the stall they shall grow up then
  For Jehovah hath planned it so,
My heart responds with a glad Amen!
  So I'll wait and be patient now.

Jer. 31: 15-17. Acts 3: 19-21.

In praise of my Redeemer.

"WHEN first I heard of Jesus so marred upon the tree,
I felt no glad emotion as though He died for me!
I saw no kingly beauty, majestic, grand or brave,
I turned away despising His proffered aid to save.

"BUT when I came to know Him, His precious name grew sweet,
And like the tinted rainbow, love arched the Mercy seat;
And when—O wondrous glory—light shone from His dear face,
All other objects faded before His matchless grace.

"AND when the joyful tidings, how God's Beloved Son
Will raise the dead in Adam, bless each and every one.
What could I do but praise Him, make vault of heaven ring!
And own Him as my choicest—Redeemer, Lord, and King.

"O Rose of rarest odour! O Lily, white and pure!
O Chiefest of ten thousand whose glory must endure!
The more I see Thy beauty, the more I know Thy grace,
The more I long, unhindered, to gaze upon Thy face!"

WE ARE SOWING

WE are sowing, ever sowing,
Something good or something ill,
In the lives of those around us,
We are planting what we will.

NOT a word for God falls fruitless,
Not a thought for Him decays;
Every fragrant precious blossom,
Will be found in future days.

WHEN the very hand that sowed them,
Shall have gone with Him to be;
Still the record of their sowing,
Will be seen eternally.

GRANT then, LORD of all the harvest,
That the seeds we daily sow,
May refresh the hearts of others,
Spreading blessings as they grow.

MAY each thought and word and action,
Bring the fruit of Christian love:
To be found in coming ages,
In thy garner house above.

TREASURED there in thine own keeping,
To thine own eternal praise,
Happy ending to our sowing—
Endless joys of fruitful days.

2 Cor. 9, 7-11. Gal. 6, 7-10. Gal. 5, 22-23.

ALABASTER BOXES

Matthew 26 : 6—13.

DO NOT keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say them before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them when I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

IMMANUEL'S LAND

THE sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks,
The summer morn we've longed for:
The blest sweet morn awakes:—
Dark, dark hath been the midnight
But dayspring's now at hand,
And God's own glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

BORNE on the tide of evil
Are sorrows, wrong and shame;
Earth's proud ones have rejected
God's Word and precious Name:
Where He has set the noblest,
They've stamped their foulest brand.
But judgment shines like noonday
In fair Immanuel's Land.

DEEP waters over-flowed me,
The thorns around were sharp:
Now these lie all behind me
And praise swells from my harp—
Whence flows the song of ages,
With yon celestial strand,
Where love in fulness dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

SOON shall the streams of glory
Dissolve earth's bitt'rest woes,
Soon shall the desert briar
Be changed to Eden's Rose;
Soon shall the earth in gladness,
Proclaim the Truth now banned,
Oh, hail the glory gleaming
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THERE! there the Rose of Sharon
Unfolds its full heart's bloom,
And fills the air of heaven
With rapturous perfume:
There through eternal ages
The fragrance rare is fanned,
Distilling glory ever
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THE King's transcendent beauty
Unveiled there is seen:
It were a well-spent journey
Though sev'n deaths lay between.
The Lamb with his Belovèd
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
In glory which excelleth,
In fair Immanuel's Land.

OF Christ who is the fountain,
The deep sweet well of love:
How oft its joys we've tasted,
More deep we'll drink above:
There to an ocean fulness
His goodness doth expand—
'Tis 'glory unto glory'
In fair Immanuel's Land.

O JOY! what bliss to meet Him,
No longer here to roam,
My Lord says, "Come up higher,
Belovèd welcome home!"
The palace in its splendour,
So beautiful and grand!
Ah! glory—glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

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THE LAST SUPPER. *Luke 22: 1-23.*

THE heat of the day is over, the hour is growing late,
And many weary pilgrims press through the city gate,
Eager to find a lodging within its sheltering wall
Ere the rapid sunset vanish and darkness reigns o'er all.
Oh sight to glad the spirit ! Oh rest for weary eyes
To see the lofty temple high o'er the city rise !
In every Jewish household the solemn feast is spread.
The Paschal moon has risen, her silver light is shed
Over the glad Jerusalem, its temple grand and fair ;
The presence of Jehovah seems round them everywhere ;
And the dear Lord is among them, and many heed it not ;
He in a borrowed upper room, unheeded and forgot ;
He with His loved disciples, keepeth the feast with them ;
The Lord of all is dwelling in great Jerusalem.
Let us leave outside the city, in its shadows deep and dim,
To rest awhile with Jesus and keep the feast with Him.

THE artist lifts the curtain, we are with the Master now ;
We see the look of sadness upon His kingly brow.
Surrounded by His loved ones, there, in that quiet place,
Surprise, and fear, and sorrow are seen on every face.
The evening lamp now lighted, from vaulted roof is hung,
A gentle soothing radiance o'er all the group has flung ;
Its sevenfold rays descending, a halo bright has shed,
Falling in silvery beauty about the Master's head.
The last rays of the sunset, beyond the open door,
Reveal the faithful Marys, who gaze around with awe.

THE servant of the good man, bearing the meal away :
They all have heard the Master these words in anguish say
" One of you shall betray Me "; and as the accents fall,
Those sad eyes full of sorrow, look round upon them all.
" One of you shall betray Me,"—we seem to hear them cry,
Even the voice of Judas joins with them, " Is it I ? "
Have they not learned the lesson, " The greatest shall be least " ?
Has not that dear One cleansed them, with whom they kept the feast?
And spoken words of comfort to all their company ?
And now He tells them sorrowing, that "one betrayeth Me."

THE water and the pitcher, the towel, all are there—
Has not that sad voice told them each other's griefs to share.
The manna pot upon the pier, dear to each pious Jew,
Telling of all those wanderings his fathers had passed through,
That has a voice for you and me, saying—The bread of life
For us was broken to sustain all through this earthly strife,
The unleavened bread upon the board, the cup and dish we see,
Bring back the words of love—" Do this in memory of Me."
Beneath the arch upon the pier, upon the other hand,
We see a fast expiring lamp, and then we understand
That symbol that the Saviour's life will very soon be o'er,
And in that borrowed upper room they will meet nevermore.
The palm branch set aside we see, token sweet of victory
That speaks of joyous Olivet, and not of Calvary ;
Soon will those voices heard again join in the awful cry,
Those glad hosannas all forgot for shouts of " Crucify."

WE know the awful story of suffering and pain ;
Oh, let us shut the world outside and ponder it again.
We know ere the morrow's sunset will those gentle tones be stilled ;
That form on which they're gazing will a borrowed grave have filled ;
That moon which lights the city will light up a cross of shame,
And those who profess to love Him will fear to own His name !
The sun withhold its shining, and darkness all will shroud,
And the voice now speaking sadly be lifted clear and loud ;
And the mocking ones will hear it, " Why hast Thou forsaken Me ? "
As that loving heart is broken on gloomy Calvary.

WE'LL ne'er forget the picture, the Saviour's look of pain,
We shall often think upon it, and ponder o'er again :
That lesson that the artist has taught to you and me.
The words the Lord is saying to that sad company
Will come to us when all around is hurry, care, and din—
A gentle warning, lifting us above this world of sin,
Oh, let us ask His guidance, that even you and I
May gather round Him in that land to praise eternally ;
To be in those fair mansions where He has gone before,
This world of change all left behind, and blest for evermore.

THE CALF'S PATH

One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home as good calves should:
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail as all calves do.

Since then three hundred years have fled,
And I infer the calf is dead:
But still he left behind his trail—
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day,
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him too,
As good bell-wethers always do.

And from that day o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made:
And many men wound in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,
And uttered words of righteous wrath,
Because 'twas such a crooked path,
But still they followed—do not laugh—
The first migration of that calf.

Now that forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again.
The crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with its load
Toiled on, beneath the burning sun,
And travelled some three miles in one;
And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of a calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet
The road became a village street.
And this, before men were aware—
A city's crowded thoroughfare.
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis:
And men two centuries and a half,
Trod in the footsteps of a calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zig-zag calf about;
And o'er the crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent,
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf now three centuries dead,
They follow still his crooked way,
And lose one hundred years a day—
For thus such reverence is lent
To well established precedent.

Now as we ponder o'er this tale
We can perceive another trail
How men are prone to follow blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun,
To do what other men have done
They follow in the beaten track
And out and in and forth and back
And still their devious course pursue
To keep the paths that others do—
But soon they'll learn a wiser way
For lo! There dawns the perfect day.

Isaiah 59: 8. 26, 9. 11: 1-9.

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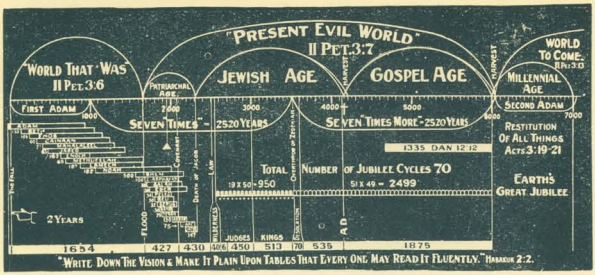
CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM!

A glorious time is coming, the morning promised long.
When truth and right with holy might, shall overthrow the wrong
When Christ the Lord and rightful king, empowered from on high
Will stretch his hand throughout the land, with justice by and by.

The boast of haughty tyrants no more shall fill the air,
But age and youth will love the truth, and speed it everywhere,
No more from want and sorrow shall come the hopeless cry,
But war shall cease and perfect peace will flourish by and by.

A glorious time is coming, the time of Jubilee,
With shout and song 'twill sweep along, like billows of the sea.
The joyfulness of nations shall ring through earth and sky,
This day of grace draws on apace—O happy by and by!

The glories of Christ's kingdom we gladly watch and pray,
Till o'er the height the morning light shall drive the gloom away,
For when the balm of healing shall reach mankind from high,
They'll turn toward their precious Lord and love Him by and by.



God's Wonderful Plan

THERE'S a wideness in God's mercy,
  Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
  Though severe His judgments be.
For the love of God is broader
  Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
  Is most wonderfully kind.

The poet has beautifully expressed the heart sentiments of Bible Students, who are rejoicing that the present dark night of weeping is about to give place to a morning of joy, as a brief survey of the chart above will show. —*Psa.* 30, 5. *Hab.* 2, 2. *Rom.* 13, 12. *Eph.* 3, 11.

The 'World that was' existed from the fall of Adam to the flood. That Dispensation was under the domination of angels, many of whom fell from Divine favour.—*Gen.* 6. *Jude* 6. 2 *Peter* 2, 4, 5.

The 'present evil World' is controlled by Satan, whose empire is a vast system of iniquity, entailing sorrow, strife, disease, and death; how true it is—"the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."—*Rom.* 8, 22. *Eph.* 2, 2. 2 *Cor.* 4, 4. *Gal.* 1, 4.

The 'World to come' will have Divine supervision. Evil will be no more, and righteousness, peace, joy and love will flow on through the ages of eternity.—*Isa.* 65, 17-19. *Rev.* 5, 13; 21, 1-4; 22, 1-3.

The Patriarchal and Jewish Ages mark God's dealing with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Jewish Race, to whom wonderful promises of deep import were given.—*Gen.* 22, 15-18. *Ex.* 19, 3-6. 1 *Cor.* 10, 11.

The Gospel Age commenced at our Lord's baptism at Jordan, and extends to his second advent. During this period God has been dealing with "the little flock" who have gladly followed in the sacrificial steps of the beloved Master.—*Luke* 12, 22-37. *Rom.* 8, 14-19. *Eph.* 1, 4-14.

The Millennial Age is truly a wonderful period, as it will witness the resurrection of every man, woman and child, who have died in Adam. In coming back from the condition of death (*Eccle.* 9, 10) they will have the glorious opportunity of KNOWING GOD and His dear Son who died for them. This knowledge will mean eternal life to the willing and obedient. O joy to the earth when Messiah reigns! THE TIME IS AT HAND and will follow the trouble now enveloping the whole earth.—*Zeph.* 3, 8, 9. *John* 5, 25-9; 17, 5. *Isa.* 26, 9. 1 *Chr.* 16, 23-36.

(*See Literature of The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society*).

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
PSALM 30:5.

Millions now living will never die

Psalm 46:1,2. Zeph.2:3. Isaiah 2:2-4.

A Golden Age Song.

1. There are so man-y prom-is-es giv-en By our God in His won-der-ful Book,
2. See, the dark clouds of troub-le are roll-ing, And fear is en-cir-cling the earth;
3. Do you know that God's kingdom is nearing, That glo-ri-ous king-dom of peace—
4. If you trust in the work of the Sav-ior, To cleanse you and keep you from sin.
5. 'Tis a mes-sage for you I am bring-ing, Oh, won't you re-ceive it to-day?

And man-y the sweet words of com-fort We find if we on-ly will look
And the treasures that man-y once val-ued, Are prov-ing of tri-fl-ing worth
Where you may be ho-ly and hap-py, Where sin, death and sor-row shall cease?
And re-flect to the whole world around you, The light of His Spir-it with-in;
Saith our God, "Those who seek me shall find me," In His Word He has shown you the way

But the one that to you should be dear-est Is this, that God's kingdom is nigh.
If you would be kept thro' the con-flict, On the Word of Je-ho-vah re-ly,
From the grave He will bring back your loved ones, And you nev-er need bid them good-bye.
Make a full un-re-served con-se-cra-tion, And then on your Sav-ior re-ly.
Oh! I pray that our Fa-ther may help you On His won-der-ful Word to re-ly.

And that you may be one of those mil-lions Now liv-ing who nev-er will die
Then you may be one of those mil-lions Now liv-ing who nev-er will die
For you may be one of those mil-lions Now liv-ing who nev-er will die
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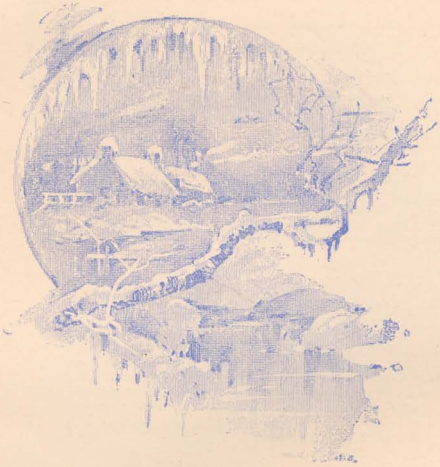
So that you may be one of those mil-lions Now liv-ing who nev-er will die.



A Legend of Service.

IT pleased the Lord of Angels (praise His name)
  To hear, one day, report from those who came
  With pitying sorrow or exaltant joy,
  To tell of earthly tasks in His employ;
For some were sorry when they saw how slow
  The stream of heavenly love must flow:
And some were glad because their eyes had seen
  Along its banks fresh flowers of living green.
So at a certain hour before the throne
  The youngest angel, Asmiel, stood alone
Not glad, nor sad, but full of earnest thought,
  And thus his tidings to the Master brought:
"Lord in the City Lupon I have found
  Three servants of thy holy name renowned
Above their fellows. One is very wise
  With thoughts that ever range above the skies,
And one is gifted with golden speech,
  That make men glad to hear when he doth teach.
And one, with no rare gift or grace endued,
  Has won the people's love by doing good.
With these three saints Lupon is trebly blest
  But, Lord, I fain would know who loves thee best?"

THEN spake the Lord of Angels, before whose look
The hearts of all are like an open book,
"In every soul, the secret thought I read
And well I know who loves me best indeed.
But every life has pages vacant still,
Whereon a man may write the things he will;
Therefore I read in silence day by day,
And wait for hearts untaught to learn my way.
But thou shalt go to Lupon, to the three
Who serve me there, and take this word from me,
Tell each of them his Master bids him go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
There he shall find a certain task for me,
But what, I do not tell to them nor thee.
Give them the message, make my word the test,
And crown for me the one who answers best."

FORTHWITH the angel obedient and elate,
Passed the self-same hour through Lupon's gate.
First to the temple door he made his way
And there, because it was a holy day,
He saw the folk by thousands thronging, stirred
By ardent thirst, to hear the preacher's word.
Then, while the echoes murmured Bernol's name,
Through the aisles that hushed behind him Bernol came.
Strung to the highest pitch of conscious might,
With lips prepared and firm and eyes alight,
One moment at the pulpit steps he knelt
In silent prayer, and on his shoulders felt
The angel's hand:—"The Master bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
To serve Him there." Then, Bernol's hidden face
Went white as death, and for about the space
Of ten slow heart-beats there was no reply,
Till Bernol looked around and whispered—"Why?"
But answer to his question came there none:
The angel sighed, and with that sigh was gone.

WITHIN the humble house, where Malvin spent
His studious years, on holy things intent,
Sweet stillness reigned, and there the angel found
The saintly sage immersed in thought profound.
Weaving with patient toil and willing care
A web of wisdom, wonderful and rare ;
A beauteous robe for truth's great bridal meet,
And needing but one more thread to be complete.
Then Asmiel touched his hand and broke the thread
Of fine spun thought, and very gently said,—
" The One of whom thou thinkest bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow
To serve Him there." With sorrow and surprise
Malvin looked up, reluctance in his eyes.
The broken thought, the strangeness of the call,
The perilous passage of the mountain wall
Appalled him. With a doubtful brow
He scanned the doubtful task and muttered—"How?"
And Asmiel answered, as he turned to go,
With sad disheartened voice : " I do not know!"

NOW as he went with fading hope to seek
The third and last to whom God made him speak,
Scarce twenty steps away whom should he meet
But Fermor, hurrying cheerful down the street.
With ready heart that faced his work like play,
And joyed to find it greater every day,
The angel stopped him with uplifted hand,
And gave without delay, his Lord's command.
" He, whom thou servest, would'st have thee go
Alone to Spiran's huts across the snow
To serve Him there." Ere Asmiel breathed again
The eager answer leaped to meet him—"When ?"
The angel's face with inward joy grew bright,
And all his figure glowed with heavenly light,
He took the golden circlet fron his brow
And gave the crown to Fermor, answering—"Now ! "
For thou hast met the Master's hidden test,
And I have found the man who loves Him best ;
Not thine, nor mine, to question or reply,
When He commands us, asking 'How ?' or 'Why ?' ;
He knows the cause ; His ways are wise and just,
Who serves the King, must serve with perfect trust."

Rock of Ages.

"ROCK of ages, cleft for me!"—
Thoughtlessly the maiden sung;
Fell the words unconsciously from her girlish, gleeful tongue.
Sang as little children sing, sang as sing the birds in June,
Fell the words like light leaves down on the current of the tune.

"Let me hide myself in Thee!"—Felt herself no need to hide,
Sweet the song as sweet could be, and she had no thought beside.
All the words unheedingly fell from lips untouched by care,
Dreaming not that they might be on some other lips a prayer.

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—'Twas a woman sung them now,
Pleadingly and prayerfully, every word her heart did know.
Rose the song like storm-tossed bird beats with weary wing the air
Every note with sorrow stirred, every syllable a prayer!

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—Lips grown aged sang that hymn,
Trustingly and tenderly, voice grown weak and eyes grown dim.
"I am hidden safe in Thee" trembling though the voice and low
Ran the sweet strain peacefully, like a river in its flow.
Sung as only they can sing whose life's thorny path have pressed,
Sung as only they can sing who behold the promised rest!

"Rock of ages cleft for me!"—sung above a coffin lid,
Underneath all restfully all life's joys and sorrows hid.
Nevermore, O storm-tossed soul, nevermore from wind or tide,
Nevermore from billows roll wilt thou need thyself to hide.
Could the sightless sunken eyes closed beneath the soft grey hair,
Could the mute and stiffening lips move again in pleading prayer
Still, aye, still, the words would be—"Rock of ages cleft for me!"

"INSTEAD"

INSTEAD of the thorn there shall
come up the fir tree,
Instead of the brier the myrtle
shall spring,
Back to the glory and freshness
and beauty,
God will creation triumphantly
bring.
Streams o'er the land will gladly be
swelling,
The flowers in the desert a fragrance shall shed,
The mountains and valleys shall
sweetly be telling
That Jehovah our God is ruling
instead.

Isaiah 55 : 13.

ALONE in the garden—His chosen
are sleeping—
The sinless Redeemer how meekly
he kneels!
His burning entreaty, His sorrow
and weeping
To the heart of Jehovah, His
anguish reveals.
"Not my will, O Father, but Thine
I have taken!"
Though heavy the stroke that
must fall on His head
He goes to the cross to be cursed
and forsaken
To give us the cup of salvation
instead.

Isaiah 53.

BUT now we'll rejoice for the glad
day is nearing,
For which all creation travaileth
in pain,
When Christ our Redeemer in glory
appearing
Shall take to Himself, His great
power and reign:
Then Satan no more his evil
extending,
For all over earth Christ's Kingdom shall spread.
With fulness of joy the song e'er
ascending
That Jesus Immanuel is ruling
instead.

Isaiah 9 : 6, 7.

Ezek. 41 : 7

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Still upward to the highest!

Still upward to the highest realm,
To life so full and free;
A place with me within my throne,
Mid anthem choirs of purest tone,
No greater glory could be shown—
Such prayers unite for thee!

Still upward—where my Father dwells,
Through paths thou hast not known,
Belovèd kept by power divine,
Whilst beams of light upon thee shine,
An outstretched hand tight-clasped in mine,
Thou walk'st with me alone.

Still upward though thou stumble oft,
And trials grieve thy soul,
Press on with joy to know my mind,
The golden gate of life to find,
To suffer long and e'er be kind—
Till faith hath cleansed thee whole.

Still upward—then let hopeful songs
Fill hallowed courts above!
Still upward! onward! honour me!
Whilst truth and mercy comfort thee,
Till—token of thy victory—
Thou knowest God's great Love.

The Minister's Daughter.

In the minister's morning sermon,
He told of the primal fall,
And how thenceforth the wrath of God
Rested on each and all.

And how, of His will and pleasure,
All souls, save a chosen few,
Were doomed to eternal torture,
And held in the way thereto.

Yet never, by faith's unreason,
A saintlier soul was tried,
And never the harsh old lesson
A tenderer heart belied.

And after the painful service,
  On that pleasant, bright first day,
He walked with his little daughter
  Through the apple bloom of May.

Sweet in the fresh green meadow
  Sparrow and blackbird sung;
Above him its tinted petals
  The blossoming orchard hung.

Around, on the wonderful glory,
  The minister looked and smiled:
"How good is the Lord, who gives us
  These gifts from His hand, my child.

"Behold in the bloom of apples,
  And the violets in the sward,
A hint of the old, lost beauty
  Of the Garden of the Lord."

Then up spake the little maiden,
  Treading on snow and pink,
"O father! these pretty blossoms
  Are very wicked, I think.

"Had there been no Garden of Eden,
  There had never been a fall,
And if never a tree had blossomed
  God would have loved us all."

"Hush, child!" the father answered,
  "By His decree man fell;
His ways are in clouds and darkness,
  But He doeth all things well.

"And whether by His ordaining
  To us cometh good or ill,
Joy or pain, or light or shadow,
  We must fear and love Him still."

"O, I fear Him!" said the daughter,
  "And I try to love Him, too;
But I wish He were kind and gentle,
  Kind and loving as you."

The minister groaned in spirit,
  As the tremulous lips of pain,
And wide, wet eyes uplifted,
  Questioned his own in vain.

Bowing his head he pondered
  The words of his little one.
Had he erred in his lifelong teachings,
  Had he wrong to his Master done?

To what grim and dreadful idol
  Had he lent the Holiest Name?
Did his own heart, loving and human,
  The God of his worship shame?

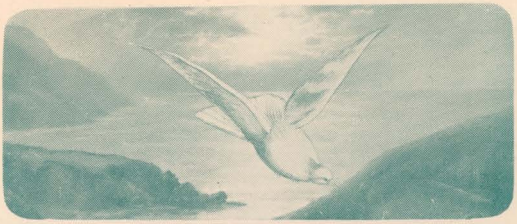
And lo! from the bloom and greenness,
  From the tender skies above,
And the face of his little daughter,
  He read a lesson of love.

No more as the cloudy terror
  Of Sinai's Mount of Law,
But as Christ in the Syrian lilies,
  The vision of God he saw.

And as when, in the clefts of Horeb,
  Of old was His presence known,
The dread, ineffable glory
  Was Infinite goodness alone.

Thereafter his hearers noted
  In his prayers a tenderer strain,
And never the message of hatred
  Burned on his lips again.

And the scoffing tongue was prayerful,
  And the blinded eyes found sight,
And hearts as flint aforetime
  Grew soft in his warmth and light.



The Bridegroom's Dove

"O my dove, thou art in the clefts of the rock."
Cant. 2: 14.

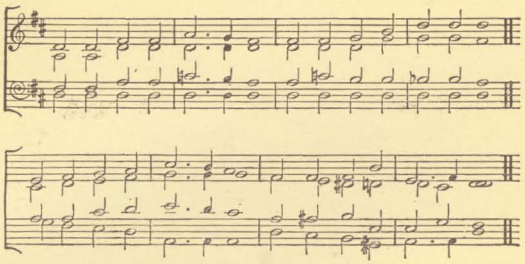
"MY dove!" The bridegroom speaks to whom?
Whom, thinkest thou, meaneth He?
Say, O my soul! canst thou presume
He thus addresseth thee?
Yes, 'tis the Bridegroom's voice of love,
Calling thee, O my soul! His dove!

THE dove is gentle, mild and meek,
Deserve I, then, the name?
I look within in vain to seek
Aught which can give a claim:
Yet, made so by redeeming love,
My soul, thou art the Bridegroom's Dove!

AS the poor dove, before the hawk,
Quick to her refuge flies,
So need I in my daily walk,
The wings which faith supplies,
To bear me where the Bridegroom's love
Places beyond all harm his dove!

THE dove hath neither claw nor sting,
No weapon for the fight:
She owes her safety to her wing,
Her victory to flight.
A shelter hath the Bridegroom's love
Provided for His helpless dove!

O HAPPY dove! thus weak, thus safe;
Do I resemble her?
Then to my soul, O Lord! vouchsafe
A dove-like character!
Pure, harmless, gentle, full of love,
Make me in spirit, Lord, a DOVE!



ZION'S GLAD SONG

Father, we would gladly raise
This our song in grateful praise:
Thou hast granted us Thy peace
Hence our joys will never cease.

In Thy sacred Word we find
Thou art gracious good and kind.
Thou hast borne so patiently
Borne our wayward frailty.

Jesus Christ, Thine own dear Son,
Died for us and everyone,
Soon begins His welcome reign,
Bringing peace and life again.

We would fear no earthly loss,
Daily taking up our cross:
Thankfully we will proclaim
Honor to Thy Holy name.

Father we would ne'er let go
Thy dear hand while here below
Firmer clasp O let there be,
Ever draw us nearer Thee.

Royal anthems now are heard,
Hearts in unison are stirred,
Praising Thee the All-supreme
Joy beyond the brightest dream!

Wondrous workings thus we trace,
Glad'ning glories of Thy grace!
Beauteous bounties of Thy love,
Beaming from the heights above!

Psa. 40: 1-3. Rev. 15: 3, 4.

The Best of Wishes.

Faith, Hope, Love

1 Corinthians 13

Faith

GOD grant thee FAITH—true faith in Him
Whose word can never fail.
Strong in His truth, His power and might
No foe will e'er prevail.
A faith which, like a little child,
Will trust the guiding hand;
Which through the storms of earthly strife
Doth yet securely stand.

Hope

GOD grant thee HOPE—that longs for home
To meet thy Grand Desire.
O may thy soul in tune with His
Yet deeper joys inspire!
A hope which like the living flame
Consumes the things of earth.
A hope which greets the Living Lord
In realm of Spirit birth.

Love

GOD grant thee LOVE—the greatest thing
That tongue can ever tell!
For 'God is Love,' and in that love
His saints forever dwell.
Love is the fulness of His grace
With thanks and praise expressed.
Perfection's goal is gained at last
And God's Eternal Rest!

St. John the Aged.

"The Disciple whom Jesus loved."—John 13: 23.

SOME seventy years ago I was a fisher by the Sea of Galilee. It was at sunset. How the tranquil tide bathed dreamily the pebbles. How the light crept up the distant hills, and in its wake soft purple shadows wrapped the dewy fields! And then HE came and called me. Then I gazed for the first time on that sweet face. Those eyes, out of which shone Divinity, looked on my inmost soul, and lighted it forever. Then His words broke on the silence of my heart. His love took hold of me and claimed me for its own. There in the twilight I followed, holding fast his mantle.

Oh, what holy walks we had through harvest fields, and desolate dreary wastes! Oftentimes He leaned upon my arm, wearied and worn: I was young and strong and so upbore Him. Lord, now I am

weak and old and feeble ! Let me rest on Thee ! So, put Thine arm around me. Closer still ! How strong Thou art !

The twilight, even now, draws on apace. Come, let us leave the noisy streets and take the path to Bethany ; for Mary's smile awaits us at the gate, and Martha's hands have prepared the cheerful evening meal. Come, James, the Master waits, and Peter, see, has gone some steps before !

What say you, friends ? that Christ has gone to His Heavenly home ! Ay, 'tis so, 'tis so, I know it all ; and yet, once more I seemed to stand upon my native hills with the Master as of old. O, how oft I've seen Him bring back strength to palsied limbs ! I feel He has to mine. Up ! bear me once more to my flock ! Once more let me tell of our Saviour's love ; for by the sweetness of the Master's voice just now, I think He must be very near. Coming perhaps to break the veil which time has worn so thin that I can almost see beyond.

How dark it is ! I cannot see the faces of my flock. Is that the sea that murmurs so, or—is it weeping ? Hush, my children. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son : So, love ye one another. Love God and man. Amen. Now bear me back. Why call ye me the Holy John ? Nay, call me rather, Jesus Christ's beloved, and lover of my children.

Lay me down once more upon my couch, and open wide the eastern window. See, there comes a light like that which broke upon my soul at eve, when in the dreary isle of Patmos, Gabriel came and touched me. See, it grows ! and hark ! How sweet that song the ransomed sing. Glory to the Lamb ! How loud it sounds ! Methinks my soul can join it now.

O, my Lord, my Lord ! How bright Thou art ! and yet the very same I loved in Galilee. 'Tis worth the hundred years to feel this bliss ! So lift me up, dear Lord, unto Thy bosom. There shall I abide."

Her heart can see!

Eph. 1: 18

"SWEET blind singer, over the sea,
Tuneful and jubilant, how can it be
That the songs of gladness, which float so far,
As if they fall from an evening star,
Are the notes of one who may never see
Visible music of flower and tree?

* * * *

How can she sing in the dark like this?
What is her fountain of light and bliss?

* * * *

Her heart can see, her heart can see!
Well may she sing so joyously!
For the King himself, in His tender grace
Hath shown her the brightness of His face.

* * * *

Dear blind sister over the sea!
A joyous heart goes forth to thee,
We are linked by a cable of faith and song,
Flashing bright sympathy, swift along;
One in the east and one in the west,
Singing for Him, whom our souls love best.

* * * *

Sister! what will our meeting be,
When our hearts shall sing, and our eyes shall see?"

Longing for Home!

As pants the hart for water brooks, so pants my soul for Thee.
Oh, when shall I behold Thy face, when wilt Thou call for me?

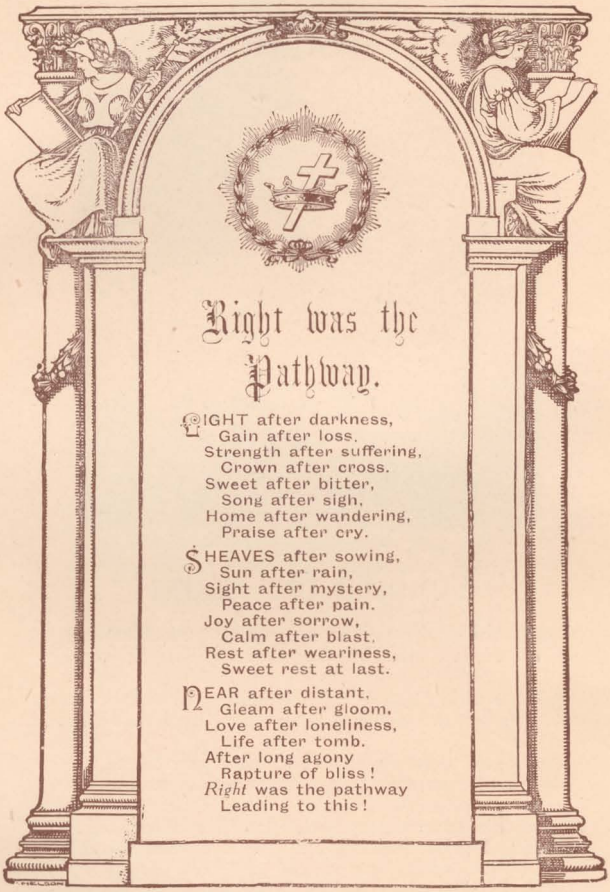
How oft at night I turn mine eyes towards my heavenly home,
And long for that blest time when Thou my Lord, shall bid me,
"Come!"
And yet I know that only those Thy blessed face shall see,
Whose hearts from every stain of sin are purified and free.

And oh, my Master and my Lord, I know I'm far from meet
With all Thy blessed saints in light to hold communion sweet.

I know that those who share Thy throne must in Thy likeness be,
And all the Spirit's precious fruits in them the Father see.

Lord, grant me grace more patiently to strive with my poor heart,
And bide Thy time to be with Thee and see Thee as Thou art!

Psa. 42: 1, 2.



Right was the Pathway.

RIGHT after darkness,
Gain after loss.
Strength after suffering,
Crown after cross.
Sweet after bitter,
Song after sigh,
Home after wandering,
Praise after cry.

SHEAVES after sowing,
Sun after rain,
Sight after mystery,
Peace after pain.
Joy after sorrow,
Calm after blast,
Rest after weariness,
Sweet rest at last.

NEAR after distant,
Gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness,
Life after tomb.
After long agony
Rapture of bliss!
Right was the pathway
Leading to this!

The New Leaf.

HE came to my desk
with a quivering lip—
The lesson was done—
"Dear Teacher, I want a
new leaf," he said,
"I have spoiled this one."
In place of the leaf, so
stained and blotted,
I gave him a new one,
all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes
smiled—
"Do better now,
My child."

I went to the throne with
a quivering soul—
The old year was done—
"Dear Father, hast Thou
a new leaf for me?
I have spoiled this one."
He took the old leaf, stained
and blotted,
And gave me a new one,
all unspotted,
And into my sad heart
smiled—
"Do better now, My child."

Matt. 6:8. *Phil. 4:19.* *Rom. 4:6-8.*

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Comforted of God

COG2

BLESSED BE GOD,
even the Father
of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
the Father of
Mercies, and
the God of all
comfort, who
comforteth us in
all our tribula-
tion, that we may
be able to com-
fort them who
are in any
trouble, by the
comfort where-
with we
ourselves are
COMFORTED
OF GOD.

2 COR. 1;3,4.

COG3

He cares for thee!

1 Peter 5: 7. Matt. 6: 28, 29

HOW good and kind our Father's care!
The words like music in the air
Come answering to our whispered prayer,
He cares for thee.

THE thought great comfort with it brings,
Our cares are all such little things
When to this truth a glad faith clings,
He cares for thee.

THE pure white lilies know no care,
And yet they grow so grand and fair,
Shedding sweet fragrance here and there,
God cares for these.

GREAT is God's care for His dear child,
Guarding from foe and danger wild
With love so strong and undefiled,
He cares for thee.

AND that sweet love will on thee shine
Making His home for ever thine;
O! The rich depths of Love Divine
He shares with thee.

Tune: "Ombersley" (Bristol).

The Changed Cross

It was a time of sadness -- and my heart,
Although it knew and loved the better part,
Felt wearied with the conflict and the strife,
And all the needful discipline of life.

And while I thought on these -- as given to me,
My trial-test of faith and love to be,
It seemed as if I never could be sure
That faithful to the end I should endure.

And thus, no longer trusting to His might
Who says “we walk by faith and not by sight,”
Doubting--and almost yielding to dispair,
The thought arose, *my cross I cannot bear!*

Far heavier its weight must surely be
Than those of others which I daily see,
Oh, if I might another burden choose,
Methinks I should not fear my crown to lose.

A solemn silence reigned on all around,
E’en nature’s voice uttered not a sound,
The evening shadows seemed of peace to tell,
And sleep upon my weary spirit fell.

A moment’s pause -- and then a heavenly light
Beamed full upon my wondering, raptured sight,
Angels on silvery wings seemed everywhere,
And angels’ music thrilled the balmy air.

Then One more fair than all the rest to see,
One to whom all the others bowed the knee,
Came gently to me as I trembling lay,
And, “follow me,” He said, “I am the Way.”

Then speaking thus, He led me far above,
And there, beneath a canopy of love,
Crosses of divers shape and size were seen,
Larger and smaller than mine own had been.

And one there was most beauteous to behold
A little one, with jewels set in gold,
Ah, this, methought, I can with comfort wear,
For it will be an easy one to bear.

And so t he little cross I quickly took,
But all at once my frame beneath it shook--
The sparkling jewels, fair were they to *see*,
But far too heavy was their *weight* for me.

This may not be, I cried, and looked again
To see if any there could ease my pain,
But one by one I passed them slowly by,
Till on a lovely one I cast my eye.

Fair flowers around its sculptured form entwined,
And grace and beauty seemed in it combined,
Wondering I gazed--and still I wondered more
To think so many should have passed it *o'er*.

But oh, that form so beautiful to see,
Soon made its hidden sorrows known to me; --
Thorns lay beneath those flowers and colors fair,
Sorrowing I said, This cross I may not bear.

And so it was with each and all around,
Not one to suit my *need* could there be found,
Weeping, I laid each heavy burden down,
As my Guide gently said, "No cross -- no crown."

At length to Him I raised my saddened heart,
He knew its sorrows, bid its doubts depart, --
"Be not afraid," He said, "but trust in me,
My perfect love shall now be shown to thee."

And then, with lightened eyes and willing feet,
Again I turned my earthly cross to meet,
With forward footsteps, turning not aside,
For fear some hidden evil might betide.

And there, in the prepared, appointed way,
Listening to hear, and ready to obey,
A cross I quickly found of plainest form,
With only words of love inscribed thereon.

With thankfulness I raised it from the rest,
And joyfully acknowledged it the best;
The *only* one of all the many there,
That I could feel was *good* for me to hear.

And while I thus my chosen one confessed,
I saw a heavenly brightness on its rest,
And as I bent my burden to sustain,
I recognized my own old cross again!

But oh, how different did it seem to be,
Now I had learned its preciousness to see!
No longer could I unbelieving say,
Perhaps another is a better way.

Ah, no! Henceforth my one desire shall be,
That he who knows me best should choose for me,
And so, whate'er His love sees good to send,
I'll trust is best--because He knows the end.

COG7

Lord Jesus, make thyself to me

A living bright reality!

More present to Faith's vision keen

Than any outward object seen,

More dear, more intimately high,

Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

COG8

“Yet will I not forget Thee”

Isa. 49: 15-16 Psalm 137: 5-6

“YET will I not forget thee, “ My cherished one, Mine own,
I will not leave thee comfortless, life’s path to tread alone,
Be loosed, beloved from every clasp of other hands but mine.
Though earthly loves and earthly hopes afar from thee be set,
Remember still, My chose one, thee will I not forget.

“YET will I not forget thee,” though thou hast oft forgot,
And turned unheeding from My voice, My words obeying not:
Yet with Mine own, my dying soul, I bore away thy past;
I took thy sin upon my heart, which broke for thee at last.

“YET will I not forget thee,” My joy! My undefiled!
Made perfect thro’ My loveliness wrapt around a wandering child.
I will forget thy wanderings, I will forget thy sin;
And cast them all behind My back, as though they ne’er had been.
But thee My sealed, My chosen on whom My love is set
I’ve love alone toward thee--how can I then forget.

YET will I not forget thee,” in mine own garden bowers,
For mine own Royal Diadem, for My celestial crown.
There waiteth still some precious gems of fair and bright renown.
And when I wreathe My flowers, and when My gems are set
In heaven’s glory on My brow, “thee will I not forget.”

COG9

O Love that will not let me go!

O LOVE that will not let me go--I rest my weary soul on Thee;
I give thee back the life I owe that in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O LIGHT that followest all my way--I yield my flickering torch
to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze
its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O JOY that seekest me though pain, I cannot close my heart to Three;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O CROSS that liftest up my head I would not ask to fly from thee;
E'en death's cold wave I need not dread, for in thy home where
glories spread
My life shall endless be.

Tune--Sankey's Hymnal

Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business

WHEN Jesus was twelve years old, his parents went to Jerusalem after the customer of the feast. And as they returned the child tarried behind; and Joseph and his mother knew it not, supposing him to have been in the company. After a day's journey they sought him, and when they found him not they turned back again to Jerusalem.

And it came to pass that, after three days they found him in the midst of the religious rulers, both hearing them and asking them questions, while all who heard him were astonished at his intelligence.

And when his parents saw him they were amazed and his mother said "Son, why hast thou dealt with us Behold we have sought Thee in anguish of spirit." "Why is it that you have been searching for me?" he replied, "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." But they understood him not, but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

They returned to Nazareth, and he was subject unto them and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52.

The child Samuel answered,
"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."
I Sam. 3.

Hushed was the Evening Hymn.

HUSHED was the evening hymn, the temple courts were dark;
The lamp was burning dim before the sacred ark:
When suddenly a voice Divine, rang through the silence of the shrine.

OH give me Samuel's ear--the open ear O Lord;
Alone and quick to hear each whisper of thy word;
Like him to answer at thy call, and to obey Thee first of all.

OH give me Samuel's hear!--a lonely heart that waits
When in Thy house Thou art; or watches at Thy gates
By day and night--a hear that still moves at the breathing of Thy will.

OH give me Samuel's mine! A sweet, unmurmuring faith,
Obedient and resigned to Thee in life and death;
That I may read, with childlike eyes, truths that are hidden from the wise.

Tune--Sankey's Hymnal

COG12

God moves in a mysterious way

GOD moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

DEEP in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

YE fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

JUDGE not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face.

HIS purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

BLIND unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

COG13

In A Mysterious Way

No, said the lawyer, I shan't press your claim against that man; you can get someone else to take the case, or you can withdraw it, just as you please. There would probably be some money in it, but it would, as you know, come from the sale of the little house the man occupies and calls 'home'; but I don't want to meddle with the matter, anyhow."

"I suppose likely the old fellow begged to be left off?"
"Well--yes he did."
"And you?"
"I didn't speak a word to him."
"Oh, he did all the talking did he? What did you do?"
"I believe I shed a few tears; he didn't speak a word to me>"
"Well, may I respectfully inquire whom he did address in your hearing?"

"Almighty God. But not for my benefit in the least. You see" --the lawyer crossed his right foot over his left knee, and began stroking his lower leg up and down, as if to help state his case concisely--"you see, I found the little house easily enough, and knocked on the outer door which stood ajar, but nobody heard me; so I stepped into the little hall, and saw through the crack of another door just as cozy a sitting room as there ever was.

"There, on a bed, with her silver head way up high on the pillows, was an old lady. I was on the point of knocking, when she said, as clearly as could be, ' Come, father now begin; I'm all ready" --and down on his knees by her side went and old white-haired man, still older than his wife, I should judge; and I couldn't have knocked then. He began to pray; first he reminded God they were still his submissive children, mother and he, and no matter what he saw fit to bring upon them, they shouldn't rebel at His will; of course, 'twas going to be very hard for them to go our homeless in their old age, specially with poor mother, so sick and helpless, but still they'd seen sadder things than ever that would be. He reminded God, in the next place how different it might have been if only one of their boys had been spared them; then his voice kind of broke, and a think white hand stole from under the coverlet and moved softly over his snowy hair; then he went on to repeat that nothing could be so sharp again as the parting with those three sons--unless mother and he should be separated. But at last he fell to comforting himself with the fact that the dear Lord knew it was through no fault of his own that mother and he were threatened with the loss of their dear little home, which meant beggary, in a place they prayed to be delivered from entering, it could be consistent with God's will; and then he fell to quoting a multitude of promises concerning the safety of those who put their trust in the Lord. Yes, I should say he begged hard; in fact, it was the most thrilling plea to which I ever listened; and at last he prayed for God's blessing on those who were about to demand justice." The lawyer stroked his lower limb in silence for a moment or two, then he continued, more slowly than ever; "And--I--believe--I'd rather go to the poorhouse myself, to-night, than to stain my heart and hands with the blood of such a prosecution as that."

“You are afraid to defeat the old man’s prayer?” queried the client.

“Bless your soul, man, you couldn’t defeat it!” He left it all subject to the will of God; but he left no doubt as to his wishes in the matter; claimed that we were told to make known our desires unto God, but of all the pleading I ever heard, that beat all. You see, I was taught that kind of thing in my childhood; and why I was sent to hear that prayer, I’m sure I don’t know; but I hand the case over.”

“I wish, said the client, twisting uneasily, ”you hadn’t told me about the old fellow’s prayer, because I want the money the place would bring; but I was taught the Bible when I was a youngster, and I’d hate to run counter to such a harangue as that you tell me about. I wish you hadn’t heard a word of it; and another time I wouldn’t listen to petitions not intended for my ears.”

The lawyer smiled.

“My dear fellow,” he said, “you’re wrong again; it was intended for my ears, and yours too, and God Almighty intended it. My old mother used to sing about God’s moving in a mysterious way, I remember.”

“Well, my mother used to sing about it too. “Said the claimant, as he twisted his claim-papers in his fingers. “You can call in the morning, if you like, and tell ‘mother and him’ the claim has been met.”

“In a mysterious way,” added the lawyer, smiling.

COG15

“She hath done what she could”

IT is not our privilege to come into personal contact with our dear Redeemer, but it is our privilege to anoint the Lord’s “brethren” with the sweet perfume of love, sympathy, joy and peace, and the more costly this may be as respects our self-denials, the more precious it will in the estimation of our Elder Brother, who declared that in proportion as we do or do not unto His brethren, we do or do not unto Him. Our alabaster boxes are our hearts, which should be full of the richest and choicest perfumes of good wishes, kindness and love toward all, but especially toward the Christ--toward the Head, our Lord Jesus, and toward all the members of His body, the Church; and especially on our part toward the feet members who are now with us, and on whom we now have the privilege of pouring out the sweet odors of love and devotion in the name of the Lord, because we are His.

COG16

Love’s Victory

IT takes great love within the loyal heart
To live beyond the others and apart,
A love that is not shallow, is not small,
Is not for one or two, but is for all.
Love that can wound love, for its highest need,
Love that can leave love, though a heart may plead,
And breathe in hope and joy the victor’s song,
A love that will not waver, that will find
Just what it means to suffer and be kind.

IT takes great love to conquer self and pride,
And swim against the swift and evil tide,
A love that wends its course to that grand height
Where dwells our God, enthroned in wondrous light,
Like that great love our Lord did sweet express,
So strong in faith and patient tenderness.
Yea, like he glowing sun, this Love must live,
Moved by one burning deathless force--to give.
Love, faith and courage, courage, faith and love,
Of such are God’s victors crowned from above.

COG17

Thy Kingdom Come!

Thy Kingdom come! The cry gone forth, in every land, east, west, south, north,
From age to age, two thousand years, the cry gone forth with pleading tears.

Thy Kingdom come! What meaneth this? Doth it spell woe or happy bliss,
Dread and pain, and depth of sorrow, or doth it tend a glad tomorrow?

Thy Kingdom come! The pomp of earth have counted little on Thy worth!
And still they laugh with vain derision, and turn their eyes from such a vision.

Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done! The time speeds on as with the sun,
This means that earth--so clearly told--a wondrous change will now behold.

And why? Remember how it rang, the message that the angels sang--
"Goodwill to men, and peace on earth," which means to all another birth.

For He must reign who died for all, till friend and foe, and great and small.
Are back again from their death sleep; He gave His life to save His sheep.

No more they'll hear the awful din of selfishness and war and sin:
For rank and file of every nation will flow to God--a new creation.

The prophecies, to be fulfilled, speak of the land when it is tilled,
Will yield like some transcendent story, delights of unsurpassing glory!

Far, far beyond all human thought, laden with riches and pleasures fraught,
Reserved for those who bow the knee to Him who died on Calvary.

Thy kingdom come! Who will not pray in this dark world of sin and say:--
O may it come O let there be one will alone; He lives for me.

E'en now before the sun shines bright, before the flooding of the light!
There're blessings great and grand and fair, the Truth to know, a life to share.

And best of all that deep'ning love, ten thousand times a mother's love!
Surpassing all t he fondest dream that links with us the great Supreme!

Matt. 6:10.

COG18

The Lost Sheep

IN the East the Good Shepherd is known by his faithful watch--care over his sheep, which is exercised at the constant risk of personal danger. Under this figure the great sacrifice of Jesus is seen with illustrious force and beauty. Through the merit of Redemptive Sacrifice "the lost sheep," as represented by "all in Adam" will be raised from the dead and be granted the gracious opportunity of attaining to human perfection, the basic characteristics of which are meekness, docility and obedience to the "Good Shepherd." The result will be eternal life on the perfect earth.

Isa. 53. Luke 2: 8-14. 2 Cor. 8:9. Phil. 2:5-11. Isa. 35.

THERE were ninety-and-nine that safely lay
In t he shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away
Far off from the gates of gold:--
Away with the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

LORD, Thou has here Thy ninety-and-nine,
Are they not enough for Thee?
But the Shepherd answered "This sheep is Mine
Which has wandered away from Me."
And although the road was so rough and steep
He went to the desert to save His sheep.

BUT none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed,
Nor how dark was the night the Lord passed through
Ere He found His sheep that was lost:
Out in the desert He heard its cry--
Sick and helpless and ready to die.

AND all through the mountains, thunder riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There arose a cry to the gate of heaven:
"Rejoice! I have found my sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
Rejoice! for the Lord brings back his own.

Tune--Sankey's Hymnal.

COG19

Back to their own Borders.

THE little brook that runs by my door
Is locked in its icy bed.
The little birds that I loved of yore,
Have gone from the branch o'erhead.
The leaves have dropped from the lilac tree,
The grass is under the snow,
And the plaintive note of the chickadee,
Is the only sound I know.

BUT I know the birds will come back to me,
The brook will flow again;
The wee brown buds on the lilac tree
Will burst into leaves; and then
My lawn will come from its hiding place,
The birds will sing and will mate;
And I'll hear of their songs of love and grace
So I'll thankfully, patiently wait.

THE little ones whom I loved so much,
Were blessed with their baby charms,
Yielding my heart to their loving touch,
Have gone from my mother arms.
It is lonesome and still in the nursery now,
I dread to go by its door:
And sometimes in sorrow my heart will bow
When I handle their toys once more.

BUT, oh, from the hand of the enemy,
When the winder of death is o'er,
My little ones all will come back to me,
And gladden my heart once more.
As the calves in the stall they shall grow up then
For Jehovah hath planned it so,
My heart responds with a glad Amen!
So I'll wait and be patient now.

Jer. 31: 15-17. Acts 3: 19-21.

COG20

In praise of my Redeemer

"WHEN first I heard of Jesus so marred upon the tree,
I felt no glad emotion as though He died for me!
I saw no kingly beauty, majestic, grand or brave,
I turned away despising His proffered aid to save.

"BUT when I came to know Him, His precious name grew sweet,
And like the tinted rainbow, love arched the Mercy seat;
And when--O wondrous glory--light shone from His dear face,
All other objects faded before His matchless grace.

"AND when the joyful tidings, how God's Beloved Son
Will raise the dead in Adam, bless each and every one,
What could I do but praise Him, make vault of heaven ring!
And own Him as my choicest--Redeemer, Lord and King.

"O Rose of rarest odor! O Lily, white and pure!
O Chiefest of ten thousand whose glory must endure!
The more I see Thy beauty, the more I know Thy grace,
The more I long, unhindered, to gaze upon Thy face!"

COG21

WE ARE SOWING

WE are sowing, ever sowing,
Something good or something ill,
In the lives of those around us,
We are planting what we will.

NOT a word for God falls fruitless,
Not a thought for Him decays;
Every fragrant precious blossom,
Will be found in future days.

WHEN the very hand that sowed them,
Shall have gone with Him to be;
Still the record of their sowing,
Will be seen eternally.

GRANT then, Lord of all the harvest,
That the seeds we daily sow,
May refresh the hearts of others,
Spreading blessings as they grow.

MAY each thought and word and action,
Bring the fruit of Christian love:
To be found in coming ages,
In thy garner house above.

TREASURED there in thine own keeping,
To thine own eternal praise,
Happy ending to our sowing--
Endless joys of fruitful days.

2 Cor. 9: 7-11. *Gal. 6: 7-10.* *Gal. 5: 22-23.*

COG22

ALABASTER BOXES

Matthew 26: 6-13.

DO NOT keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say them before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them when I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

COG23

IMMANUEL'S LAND

THE sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks,
The summer morn we've longed for:
The blest sweet morn awakes:--
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,
But dayspring's now at hand,
And God's own glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

BORNE on the tide of evil
Are sorrows, wrong and shame;
Earth's proud ones have rejected
God's Word and precious Name:
Where He has set the noblest,
They've stamped their foulest brand.
But judgment shines like noonday
In fair Immanuel's Land.

DEEP waters over-flowed me,
The thorns around were sharp:
Now these lie all behind me
And praise swells from my harp--
When flows the song of ages,
With yon celestial strand,
Where love in fullness dwelleth
In fair Immanuel's Land.

SOON shall the streams of glory
Dissolve earth's bitt'rest woes,
Soon shall the desert briar
Be changed to Eden's Rose;
Soon shall the earth in gladness,
Proclaim the Truth now banned,
Oh, hail the glory gleaming
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THERE! there the Rose of Sharon
Unfolds its full heart's bloom,
And fills the air of heaven
With rapturous perfume:
There through eternal ages
The fragrance rare is fanned,
Distilling glory ever
In fair Immanuel's Land.

THE King's transcendent beauty
Unveiled there is seen:
It were a well-spent journey
Though sev'n deaths lay between.
The Lamb with his Beloved
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
In glory which excelleth,
In fair Immanuel's Land.

OF Christ who is the fountain,
The deep sweet well of love:
How oft its joys we've tasted,
More deep we'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His goodness doth expand--
Tis 'glory unto glory'
In fair Immanuel's Land.

O JOY! What bliss to meet Him,
No longer here to roam,
My Lord says, “Come up higher,
Beloved welcome home!”
The palace in its splendor,
So beautiful and grand!
Ah! Glory-glory dwelleth
In fair Immanuel’s Land.

COG24

COG25

THE LAST SUPPER.

Luke 22: 1-23.

THE heat of the day is over, the hour is growing late,
And many weary pilgrims press through the city gate,
Eager to find a lodging within its sheltering wall
Ere the rapid sunset vanish and darkness reigns o’er all.
Oh sight to glad the spirit! Oh rest for weary eyes
To see the lofty temple high o’er the city rise!
In every Jewish household the solemn feast is spread.
The Paschal moon has risen, her silver light is shed
Over the glad Jerusalem, its temple grand and fair;
The presence of Jehovah seems round them everywhere;
And the dear Lord is among them, and many heed it not;
He in a borrowed upper room, unheeded and forgot;
He with His loved disciples, keepeth the feast with them;
The Lord of all is dwelling in great Jerusalem.
Let us leave outside the city, in its shadows deep and dim,
To rest awhile with Jesus and keep the feast with him.

THE artist lifts the curtain, we are with the Master now;
We see the look of sadness upon His kingly brow.
Surrounded by His loved ones, there, in that quiet place,
Surprise, and fear, and sorrow are seen on every face.
The evening lamp now lighted, from vaulted roof is hung,
A gentle soothing radiance o’er all the group has flung;
Its sevenfold rays descending, a halo bright has shed,
Falling in silvery beauty about the Master’s head.
The last rays of the sunset, beyond the open door,
Reveal the faithful Marys, who gaze around with awe.

THE servant of the good man, bearing the meal away:
they all have heard the Master these words in anguish say
“One of you shall betray Me;” and as the accents fall
Those sad eyes full of sorrow, look round upon them all.
“One of you shall betray Me.”--we seem to hear them cry,
Even the voice of Judas joins with them, “Is it I?”
Have they not learned the lesson, “The greatest shall be least?”
Has not that dear One cleansed them, with whom they kept the feast?
And spoken words of comfort to all their company?
And now He tells them sorrowing, that “one betrayed Me.”

THE water and the pitcher, the towel, all are there--
Has not that sad voice told them each other’s griefs to share.
The manna pot upon the pier, dear to each pious Jew,
Telling of all those wanderings his fathers had passed through,
That has a voice for you and me, saying--The bread of life
For us was broken to sustain all through this earthly strife,
The unleavened bread upon the board, the cup and dish we see,
Bring back the words of love--”Do this in memory of Me.”
Beneath the arch upon the pier, upon the other hand,
We see a fast expiring lamp, and then we understand
That symbol that the Savior’s life will very soon be o’er,
And in that borrowed upper room they will meet nevermore.
The palm branch set aside we see, token sweet of victory
That speaks of joyous Olivet, and not of Calvary;
Soon will those voices heard again join in the awful cry,
Those glad hosannas all forgot for shouts of “Crucify.”

WE know the awful story of suffering and pain;
Oh, let us shut the world outside and ponder it again.
We know ere the morrow’s sunset will those gentle tones be stilled;
That form on which they’re gazing will a borrowed grave have filled;
That moon which lights the city will light up a cross of shame,
And those who profess to love Him will fear to own His name!
The sun withhold its shining, and darkness all will shroud,
And the voice now speaking sadly be lifted clear and loud;
And the mocking ones will hear it, “Why hast Thou forsaken Me?”
As that loving hear is broken on gloomy Calvary.

WE’LL ne’er forget the picture, the Savior’s look of pain,
We shall often think upon it, and ponder o’er again:
That lesson that the artist has taught to you and me.
The words the Lord is saying to that sad company
Will come to us when all around is hurry, care and din--
A gentle warning, His guidance, that even you and I
May gather round Him in that land to praise eternally;
To be in those fair mansions where He has gone before,
This world of change all left behind, and blest for evermore.

COG26

THE CALF'S PATH

One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home as good calves should:
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail as all calves do.

Since then three hundred years have fled,
And I infer the calf is dead:
But still he left behind his trail--
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day,
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him too,
As good bell-wethers always do.

And from that day o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made:
And many men wound in and out,
And uttered words of righteous wrath,
Because 'twas such a crooked path,
But still they followed--do not laugh--
The first migration of that calf.

Now that forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again.
The crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with its load
Toiled on, beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one;
And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of a calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street.
And this, before men were aware--
A city's crowded thoroughfare.
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis;
And men two centuries and a half,
Trod in the footsteps of a calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zig-zag calf about;
And o’er the crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent,
A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf now three centuries dead,
They follow still his crooked way,
And lose one hundred years a day--
For thus such reverence is lent
To well established precedent.

Now as we ponder o’er this tale
We can perceive another trail
How men are prone to follow blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun,
To do what other men have done
They follow in the beaten track
And out and in and forth and back
And still their devious course pursue
To keep the paths that others do--
But soon they’ll learn a wiser way
For lo! There dawns the perfect day.
Isaiah 59:8., 26:9, 11:1-9.

COG27

CHRIST'S GLORIOUS KINGDOM!

A glorious time is coming, the morning promised long,
When truth and right with holy might, shall overthrow the wrong
When Christ the Lord and rightful king, empowered from on high
Will stretch his hand throughout the land, with justice by and by.

The boast of haughty tyrants no more shall fill the air,
But age and youth will love the truth, and speed it everywhere,
No more from want and sorrow shall come the hopeless cry,
But war shall cease and perfect peace will flourish by and by.

A glorious time is coming, the time of Jubilee,
With shout and song 'twill sweep along like billows of the sea,
The joyfulness of nations shall ring through earth and sky,
This day of grace draws on apace--O happy by and by!

The glories of Christ's kingdom we gladly watch and pray,
Till o'er the height the morning light shall drive the gloom away,
For when the balm of healing shall reach mankind from high,
They'll turn toward their precious Lord and love Him by and by.

COG28

God's Wonderful Plan

THERE'S a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Though severe His judgments be.
For the love of God is broader,
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal,
Is most wonderfully kind.

The poet has beautifully expressed the heart sentiments of Bible Students, who are rejoicing that the present dark night of weeping is about to give place to a morning of joy, as a brief survey of the chart above will show. --*Psa. 30:5, Hab. 2:2, Rom. 13:12, Eph. 3:11.*

The 'World that was' existed from the fall of Adam to the flood. That Dispensation was under the domination of angels, many of whom fell from Divine favor. -- *Gen. 6, Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4,5.*

The 'present evil World' is controlled by Satan, whose empire is a vast system of iniquity, entailing sorrow, strife, disease, and death; how true it is--"the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." -- *Rom. 8:22, Eph 2:2, 2 Cor. 4:4, Gal. 1:4.*

The 'World to come' will have Divine supervision. Evil will be no more, and righteousness, peace, joy, and love will flow on through the ages of eternity. -- *Isa. 65: 17-19, Rev. 5:13, 21:1-4; 22: 1-3.*

The Patriarchal and Jewish Ages mark God's dealing with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Jewish Race, to whom wonderful promises of deep import were given. -- *Gen. 22: 15-18, Ex. 19: 3-6, 1 Cor. 10:11.*

The Gospel Age commenced at our Lord's baptism at Jordan, and extends to his second advent. During this period God has been dealing with "the little flock" who have gladly followed in the sacrificial steps of the beloved Master. -- *Luke 12: 22-37, Rom. 8: 14-19, Eph. 1: 4-14.*

The Millennial Age is truly a wonderful period, as it will witness the resurrection of every man, woman and child, who have died in Adam. In coming back from the condition of death (*Eccle. 9:10)* they will have the glorious opportunity of KNOWING GOD and His dear Son who died for them. This knowledge will mean eternal life to the willing and obedient. O joy to the earth when Messiah reigns! THE TIME IS AT HAND and will follow the trouble now enveloping the whole earth. --*Zeph 3:8,9, John 5:25-29, 17:5, Isa. 26:9, 1 Chr. 16: 23-36.*

(See Literature of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society).

Weeping may endure for a night,
but joy cometh in the morning.
Psalm 30:5.

Millions now living will never die

Psalm 41:1,2, Zeph. 2:3, Isaiah 2:2-4

A Golden Age Song

There are so many promises given
By our God in His wonderful book,
And many the sweet words of comfort
We feel if we only will look.
But the one that to you should be dearest
Is this, that God's kingdom is nigh
And that you may be one of those millions
Now living who never will die.

See, the dark clouds of trouble are rolling,
And fear is encircling the earth;
And the treasures that many once valued,
Are proving of trifling worth.
If you would be kept thro' the conflict,
On the Word of Jehovah rely
And you may be one of those millions
Now living who never will die.

Do you know thagt God's kingdom is nearing,
That glorious kingdom of peace—
Where you may be holy and happy,
Where sin, death, and sorrow shall cease?
From the grave He will bring back your loved ones,
And you never need bid them good-bye,
For you may be one of those millions
Now living who never will die.

If you trust in the work of the Savior,
To cleanse you and keep you from sin,
And reflect to the whole world around you,
The light of His Spirit within;
Make a full unreserved consecration,
And then on your Savior rely,
Then you may be one of those millions
Now living who never will die.

‘Tis a message for you I am bringing,
Oh, won’t you perceive it today?
Saith our God, “Those who seek me shall find me,”
In His Word He has shown you the way.
Oh, I pray that the Father may help you,
On His wonderful Word to rely,
So that you may be one of those millions
Now living who never will die.

COG30

A Legend of Service

It pleased the Lord of Angels (praise His name)
To hear, one day, report from those who came
With pitying sorrow or exultant joy,
To tell of earthly tasks in His employ;
For some were sorry when t hey saw how slow
the stream of heavenly love must flow:
And some were glad because their eyes had seen
Along its banks fresh flowers of living green.
So at a certain hour before the throne
The youngest angel, Asmiel, stood alone
Not glad, nor sad, but full of earnest thought,
And thus his tidings to the Master brought:
“Lord in the City Lupon I have found
Three servants of the holy name renowned
Above their fellows. One is very wise
With thoughts that ever range above the skies,
And one is gifted with golden speech,
That make men glad to hear when he doth teach.
And one, with no rare gift or grace endued,
Has won the people’s love by doing good.
With these three saints Lupon is trebly blest
But, Lord I fain would know who loves thee best?”

THEN spake the Lord of Angels, before whose look
The hearts of all are like an open book,
“In every soul, the secret thought I read
And well I know who loves me best indeed.
But every life has pages vacant still,
Whereon a man may write the things he will;
Therefore I read in silence day by day,
And wait for hearts untaught to learn my way.
But thou shalt go to Lupon, to the three
Who serve me there, and take this word from me,
Tell each of them his master bids him go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
There he shall find a certain task for me,
But what, I do not tell to them nor thee.
Give them the message, make my word the test,
And crown for me the one who answers best.”

FORTHWITH the angel obedient and elate,
Passed the self-same hour through Lupon’s gate.
First to the temple door he made his way
And there, because it was a holy day,
He saw t he folk by thousands thronging, stirred
By ardent thirst, to hear the preacher’s word.
Then, while the echoes murmured Bernol’s name,
Through the aisles that hushed behind him Bernol came.
Strung to the highest pitch of conscious might,
With lips prepared and firm and eyes alight,
One moment at the pulpit steps he knelt
In silent prayer, and on his shoulders felt
The angel’s hand:--The Master bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow,
To serve Him there.” Then Bernol’s hidden face
Went white as death, and for about the space
Of ten slow heart-beats there was no reply,
Till Bernol looked around and whispered-- “why?”
But answer to his question came there none:
The angel sighed, and with that sigh was gone.

WITHIN the humble house, where Malvin spent
His studious years, on holy things intent,
Sweet stillness reigned, and there the angel found
The saintly sage immersed in thought profound.
Weaving with patient toil and willing care
A web of wisdom, wonderful and rare;
A beauteous robe for truth's great bridal meet,
And needing but one more thread to be complete.
Then Asmiel touched his hand and broke the thread
Of fine spun thought, and very gently said,--
"The One of whom thou thinkest bids thee go
Alone to Spirans huts across the snow
To serve Him there." With sorrow and surprise
Malvin looked up, reluctance in his eyes.
The broken thought, the strangeness of the call,
The perilous passage of the mountain wall
Appalled him. With a doubtful brow
He scanned the doubtful task and muttered--How?"
An Asmiel answered, as he turned to go,
With sad disheartened voice: "I do not know!"

NOW as he went with fading hope to seek
The third and last to whom God made him speak,
Scarce twenty steps away whom should he meet
But Fermor, hurrying cheerful down the street.
With ready heart that faced his work like play,
And joyed to find it greater every day,
The angel stopped him with uplifted hand,
And gave without delay his Lord's command.
"He, whom thou servest, would'st have thee go
Alone to Spiran's huts across the snow
To serve Him there." Ere Asmiel breathed again
The eager answer leaped to meet him--"When?"
The angel's face with inward joy grew bright,
And all his figure glowed with heavenly light,
He took the golden circlet from his brow
And gave the crown to Fermor, answering--"Now!"
For thou has met the Master's hidden test,
And I have found the man who loves Him best;
Not thine, nor mine, to question or reply,
When He commands us, asking 'How? or Why?';
He knows the cause; His ways are wise and just,
Who serves the King, must serve with perfect trust."

COG33

Rock of Ages

“ROCK of ages, cleft for me!”--
Thoughtlessly the maiden sung;
Fell the words unconsciously from her girlish, gleeful tongue.
Sang as little children sing, sang as sing the birds in June,
Fell the words like light leaves down on t he current of the tune.

“Let me hide myself in Thee!”-- Felt herself no need to hide,
Sweet the song as sweet could be, and she had no thought beside,
All the words unheedingly fell from lips untouched by care,
Dreaming not that they might be on some other lips a prayer.

”Rock of ages cleft for me!”--Twas a woman sung them now,
Pleasingly and prayerfully, every word her heart did know.
Rose the song like storm-tossed bird beats with weary wing the air
Every note with sorrow stirred, every syllable a prayer!

”Rock of ages cleft for me!”--Lips grown aged sang that hymn,
Trustingly and tenderly, voice grown weak and eyes grown dim,
“I am hidden safe in Thee” trembling though the voice and low
Ran the sweet strain peacefully, like a river in its flow.
Sung as only they can sing whose life’s thorny path have pressed,
Sung as only they can sing who behold the promised rest!

”Rock of ages cleft for me!”--sung above a coffin lid,
Underneath all restfully all life’s joys and sorrows hid.
Nevermore, O storm-tossed soul, nevermore from wind or tide,
Nevermore from billows roll wilt thou need thyself to hide.
Could the sightless sunken eyes closed beneath the soft grey hair,
Could the mute and stiffening lips move again in pleading prayer
Still, aye, still, the words would be--”Rock of ages cleft for me!”

COG34

“INSTEAD”

Instead of the thorn there shall come up the fir tree,
Instead of the brier the myrtle shall spring,
Back to the glory and freshness and beauty,
God will creation triumphantly bring
Streams o’er the land will gladly be swelling,
The flowers in the desert a fragrance shall shed,
The mountains and valleys shall sweetly be telling
That Jehovah our God is ruling instead.
Isaiah 55:13.

Alone in the garden--His chosen are sleeping--
The sinless Redeemer how meekly he kneels!
His burning entreaty, His sorrow and weeping
To the heart of Jehovah, His anguish reveals.
“Not my will, O Father, but Thine I have taken!”
Though heavy the stroke that must fall on His head
He goes to the cross to be cursed and forsaken
To give us the cup of salvation instead.
Isaiah 53.

But now we’ll rejoice for the glad day is nearing,
For which all creation travaileth in pain,
When Christ our Redeemer in glory appearing
Shall take to Himself, His great power and reign;
Then Satan no more his evil extending,
For all over earth Christ’s Kingdom shall spread.
With fullness of joy the song e’er ascending
That Jesus Immanuel is ruling instead.
Isaiah 9: 6, 7.

COG35

Still upward to the highest

Ezekiel 41:7

Still upward to the highest realm,
To life so full and free;
A place with me within my throne,
Mid anthem choirs of purest tone,
No greater glory could be shown--
Such prayers unite for thee!

Still upward--where my Father dwells,
Through paths thou hast not known,
Beloved kept by power divine,
Whilst beams of light upon thee shine,
An outstretched hand tight-clasped in mine,
Thou walk’st with me alone.

Still upward though thou stumble oft,
And trials grieve thy soul,
Press on with joy to know my mind,
The golden gate of life to find,
To suffer long and e’er be kind--
Till faith hath cleansed thee whole.

Still upward--then let hopeful songs
Fill hallowed courts above!
Still upward! Onward! Honor me!
Whilst truth and mercy comfort thee,
Till--token of thy victory--
Thou knowest God’s great Love.

COG36

The Minister’s Daughter

In the minister’s morning sermon,
He told of the primal fall,
And how thenceforth the wrath of God
Rested on each and all.

And how, of His will and pleasure,
All souls, save a chosen few,
Were doomed to eternal torture,
And held in the way thereto.

Yet never, by faith's unreason,
A saintlier soul was tried,
And never the harsh old lesson
A tender heart belied.

And after the painful service,
On that pleasant, bright first day,
He walked with his little daughter
Through the apple bloom of May.

Sweet in the fresh green meadow
Sparrow and blackbird sung;
Above him its tinted petals
The blossoming orchard hung.

Around, on the wonderful glory,
The minister looked and smiled:
"How good is the Lord who gives us
These gifts from His hand, my child.

"Behold in the bloom of apples,
And the violets in the sward,
A hint of the old, lost beauty
Of the Gardens of the Lord."

Then up spake the little maiden,
Treading on the snow and pink,
"O father! These pretty blossoms
Are very wicked, I think.

"Had there been no Garden of Eden,
There had never been a fall,
And if never a tree had blossomed
God would have loved us all."

"Hush, child!" the father answered,
"By His decree man fell,
His ways are in clouds and darkness,
But He doeth all things well.

"And whether by His ordaining
To us cometh good or ill,
Joy or pain, or light or shadow,
We must fear and love Him still."

“O, I fear Him! said the daughter,
“And I try to love Him too,
But I wish He were kind and gentle,
Kind and loving as you.”

The minister groaned in spirit,
As the tremulous lips of pain,
And wide, wet eyes uplifted,
Questioned his own in vain.

Bowing his head he pondered
The words of his little one,
Had he erred in his lifelong teachings,
Had he wrong to his Master done?

To what grim and dreadful idol
Had he lent the Holiest Name?
Did his own heart, loving and human,
The God of his worship shame?

And lo! From the bloom and greenness,
From the tender skies above,
And the face of his little daughter,
He read a lesson of love.

No more as the cloudy terror
Of Sinai’s Mount of Law,
But as Christ in the Syrian lilies,
The vision of God he saw.

And as when, in the clefts of Horeb,
Of old was His presence known,
The dread, ineffable glory
Was Infinite goodness alone.

Thereafter his hearers noted
In his prayers a tenderer strain,
And never the message of hatred
Burned on his lips again.

And the scoffing tongue was prayerful,
And the blinded eyes found sight,
And hearts as flint aforetime
Grew soft in his warmth and light.

The Bridegroom's Dove

"O my done, thou art in the clefts of the rock."
Cant. 2:14

"MY dove!" The bridegroom speaks to whom?
Whom, thinkest thou, meaneth He?
Say, O my soul! Canst thou presume
He thus addresseth thee?
Yes, 'tis the Bridegroom's voice of love,
Calling thee, O my soul! His dove!

THE dove is gentle, mild and meek,
Deserve I, then, the name?
I look within in vain to seek
Ought which can give a claim:
Yet, made so by redeeming love,
My soul, thou art the Bridegroom's Dove!

AS the poor dove, before the hawk,
Quick to her refuge flies,
So need I in my daily walk,
The wings which faith supplies,
To bear me where the Bridegroom's love
Places beyond all harm his dove!

THE dove hath neither claw nor sting,
No weapons for the fight;
She owes her safety to her wing,
Her victory to flight.
A shelter hath the Bridegroom's love
Provided for His helpless dove!

O HAPPY dove! Thus weak, thus safe;
Do I resemble her?
Then to my soul, O Lord! Vouchsafe
A dove-like character!
Pure, harmless, gentle, full of love,
Make me in spirit, Lord, a DOVE!

COG40

ZION'S GLAD SONG

Father, we would gladly raise
This our song in grateful praise;
Thou hast granted us Thy peace
Hence our joys will never cease.

In thy sacred Word we find
Thou art gracious good and kind,
Thou has borne so patiently
Borne our wayward frailty.

Jesus Christ, Thine own dear Son,
Died for us and everyone,
Soon begins His welcome reign,
Bringing peace and life again.

We would fear no earthly loss,
Daily taking up our cross;
Thankfully we will proclaim
Honor to Thy Holy name.

Father we would ne'er let go
Thy dear hand while here below
Firmer clasp O let there be,
Ever draw us nearer Thee.

Royal anthems now are heard,
Hearts in unison are stirred,
Praising Thee the All-supreme
Joy beyond the brightest dream!

Wondrous workings thus we trace,
Glad'ning glories of Thy grace!
Beauteous bounties of Thy love,
Beaming from the heights above!
Psa. 40: 1-3. Rev. 15: 3, 4.

COG41

The Best of Wishes

Faith, Hope, Love

1 Corinthians 13

Faith

GOD grant thee FAITH--true faith in Him
Whose word can never fail,
Strong in His truth, His power and might
No foe will e'er prevail.
A faith which, like a little child,
Will trust the guiding hand;
Which through the storms of earthly strife
Doth yet securely stand.

Hope

GOD grant thee HOPE--that longs for home
To meet thy Grand Desire.
O may thy soul in tune with His
Yet deeper joys inspire!
A hope which like the living flame
Consumes the things of earth.
A hope which greets the Living Lord
In realm of Spirit birth.

Love

GOD grant thee LOVE--the greatest thing
That tongue can ever tell!
For "God is Love' and in that love
His saints forever dwell.
Love is the fullness of His grace
With thanks and praise expressed.
Perfection's goal is gained at last
And God's Eternal Rest!

St. John the Aged.

"The Disciple whom Jesus loved." -- John 13:23.

SOME seventy years ago I was a fisher by the Sea of Galilee. It was at sunset. How the tranquil tide bathed dreamily the pebbles. How the light crept up the distant hills, and its wake soft purple shadows wrapped the dewy fields! And then HE came and called me. Then I gazed for the first time on that sweet face. Those eyes, out of which shone Divinity, looked on my inmost soul, and lighted it forever. Then His words broke on the silence of my heart. His love took hold of me and claimed me for its own. There in the twilight I followed, holding fast his mantle.

Oh, what holy walks we had through harvest fields, and desolate dreary wastes! Oftentime He leaned upon my arm, wearied and worn; I was young and strong and so upbore Him. Lord, now I am weak and old and feeble! Let me rest on Thee! So, put Thine arm around me. Closer still! How strong Thou art!

The twilight, even now, draws on apace. Come, let us leave the noisy streets and take the path to Bethany; for Mary's smile awaits us at the gate, and Martha's hands have prepared the cheerful evening meal. Come, James, the Master waits, and Peter, see, has gone some steps before!

What say you, friends" that Christ has gone to His Heavenly home! Ay, 'tis so, 'tis so, I know it all; and yet, once more I seemed to stand upon my native hills with the Master as of old. O, how oft I've seen Him bring back strength to palsied limbs! I feel He has to mine. Up! Bear me once more to my flock! Once more let me tell of our Savior's love; for by the sweetness of the Master's voice just now, I think He must be very near. Coming perhaps to break the veil which time has worn so thin that I can almost see beyond.

How dark it is! I cannot see the faces of my flock. Is that the sea that murmurs so, or--is it weeping? Hush, my children. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son: So, love ye one another. Love God and man. Amen. Now bear me back. Why call ye me the Holy John? Nay, call me rather, Jesus Christ's beloved, and lover of my children.

Lay me down once more upon my couch, and open wide the eastern window. See, there comes a light like that which broke upon my soul at eve, when in the dreary isle of Patmos, Gabriel came and touched me. See, it grows! And hark! How sweet that song the ransomed sing. Glory to the Lamb! How loud it sounds! Methinks my soul can join it now.

O, my Lord, my Lord! How bright Thou art! And yet the very same I loved in Galilee. 'Tis worth the hundred years to feel this bliss! So lift me up, dear Lord, unto Thy bosom. There shall I abide."

COG44

Her heart can see!

Eph. 1:18.

"SWEET blind singer, over the sea,
Tuneful and jubilant, how can it be
That the songs of gladness, which float so far,
As if they fall from an evening star.
Are the notes of one who may never see
Visible music of flower and tree?

How can she sing in the dark like this?
What is her fountain of light and bliss?

Her heart can see, her heart can see!
Well may she sing so joyously!
For the King himself, in His tender grace
Hath shown her the brightness of His face.

Dear blind sister over the sea!
A joyous heart goes forth to thee,
We are linked by a cable of faith and song,
Flashing bright sympathy, swift along;
One in the east and one in the west,
Singing for Him, whom our souls love best.

Sister! What will our meeting be,
When our hearts shall sing, and our eyes shall see?"

COG45

Longing for Home!

As pants the hart for water brooks, so pants my soul for Thee,
Oh, when shall I behold Thy face, when wilt Thou call for me?

How oft at night I turn mine eyes towards my heavenly home,
And long for that blest time when Thou my Lord, shall bid me “Come!”

And yet I know that only those Thy blessed face shall see,
Whose hearts from every stain of sin are purified and free.

And oh, my Master and my Lord, I know I’m far from meet
With all Thy blessed saints in light to hold communion sweet.

I know that those who share Thy throne must in Thy likeness be,
And all the Spirit’s precious fruits in them the Father see.

Lord, grant me grace more patiently to strive with my poor heart,
And bide Thy time to be with Thee and Thee as Thou art!

Psalm 42: 1,2.

COG40

Right was the Pathway

LIGHT after darkness, Gain after loss
Strength after suffering, Crown after cross,
Sweet after bitter, Song after sigh,
Home after wandering, Praise after cry.

SHEAVES after sowing, Sun after rain.
Sight after mystery, Peace after pain,
Joy after sorrow, Calm after blast.
Rest after weariness, Sweet rest at last.

NEAR after distant, Gleam after gloom,
Love after loneliness, Life after tomb.
After long agony, Rapture of bliss!
Right was the pathway, Leading to this!

COG47

The New Leaf

HE came to my desk with a quivering lip--
The lesson was done--
“Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf,” he said,
“I have spoiled this one.”
In place of the leaf, so stained and blotted,
I gave him a new one, all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes smiled--
“Do better now, My child.”

I went to the throne with a quivering soul--
The old year was done--
“Dear Father, has Thou a new leaf fro me?
I have spoiled this one>“
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled--
“Do better now, My child.”
Matt. 6:8, Phil. 4:19, Rom 4: 6-8.

COG48

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